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JULY 2024

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Teresa Rodriguez
A Pillar of Possibilities

Photographed by Vincent Gotti



Jean Schlumberger by Tiffany



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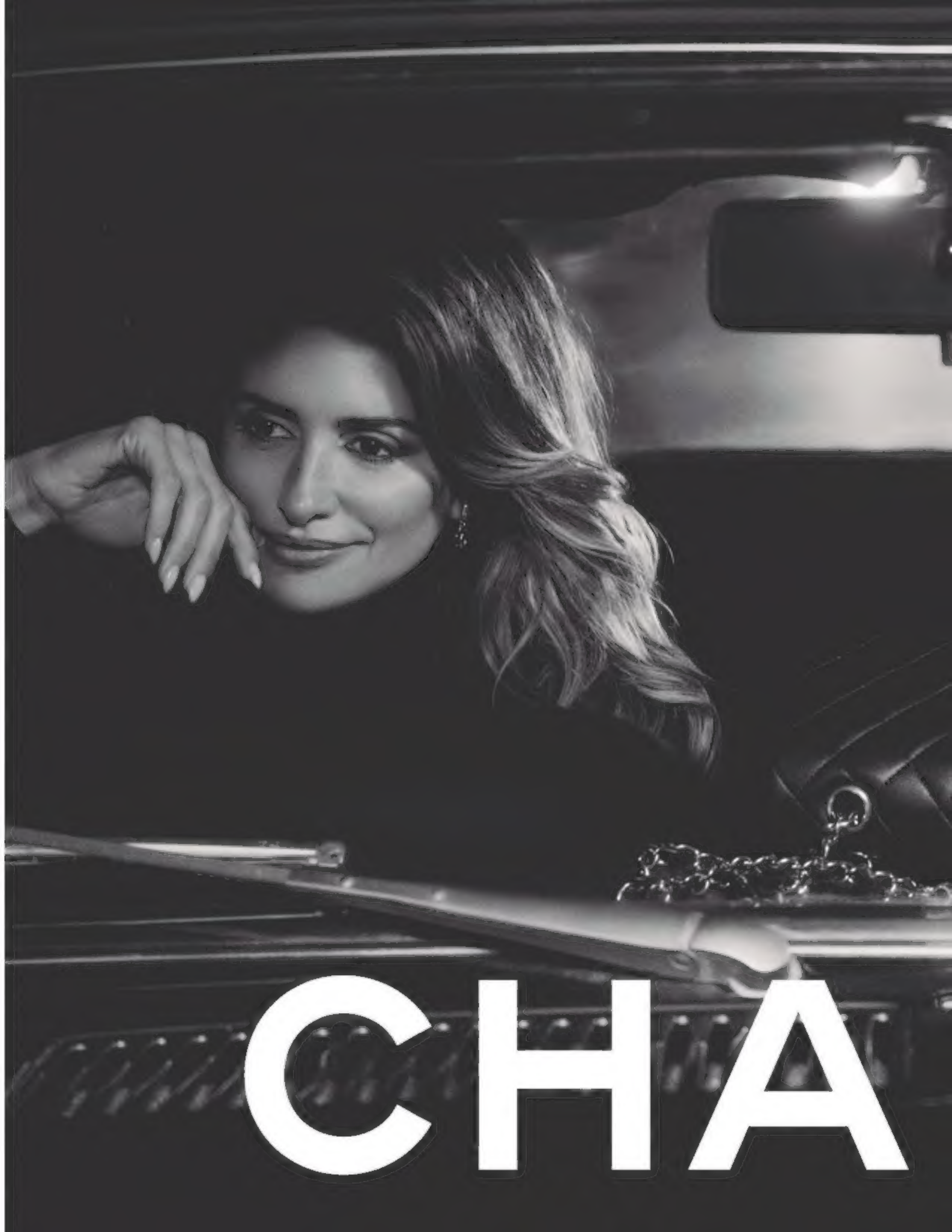
SCARLETT JOHANSSON / GALLERIA BAG
A FILM BY JONATHAN GLAZER





PRADA





CHIA



NEEL



CHA



NIEL



A man with dark hair, wearing dark sunglasses and a black shirt, is reclining on a red sofa. He is looking towards the left of the frame. The background is a warm, reddish-orange color. The text "DOLCE & GABBANA" is overlaid in the center of the image.

DOLCE & GABBANA









Bad Bunny, Los Angeles

Valigeria
By Anthony Seklaoui, 2024





DIOR

ROSE DES VENTS COLLECTION

Yellow gold, pink gold, white gold, diamonds and onyx





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for

GUESS



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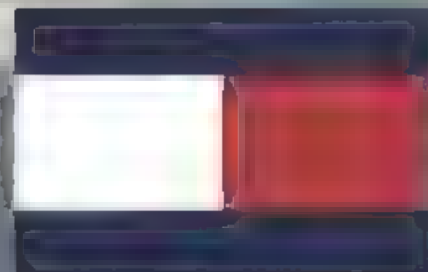
THE ART OF ITALIAN LINGERIE



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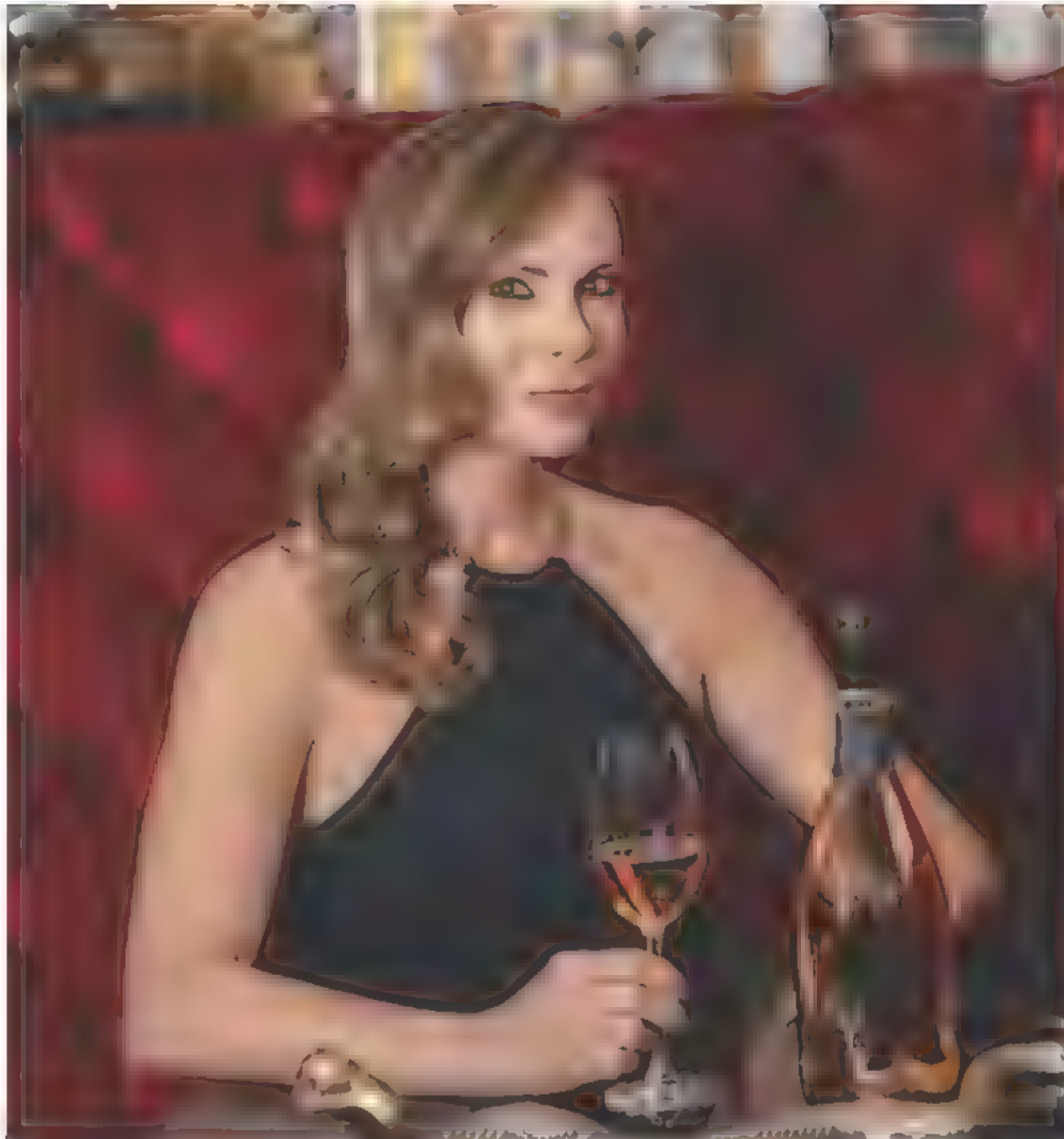
DIOR



A black and white artistic photograph. On the left side, a person's back and shoulder are visible, illuminated against a dark, textured background that resembles a wall or a large rock formation. The person's skin is light, and their shoulder blade is prominent. The background has a rough, cracked texture. In the center-right of the image, the brand name "SAINT LAURENT" is written in a stylized, white, serif font with a slight shadow effect.

SAINT LAURENT

LUXCLUB



PUBLISHED BY
PLPG GLOBAL MEDIA, LLC
PUBLICOM LATINA PUBLISHING GROUP S.A.S & FORTUNATO HOLDINGS, INC.

CHIEF CONTENT OFFICER AND GLOBAL EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
EDWARD R RUEDA - ceo@plpg-globalmedia.com

Deputy Editor **VINCENT GOTTI**
Fashion Director & Fashion News Director **MAGRET MARTINEZ**
Web Editorial Director **DIEGO LEONARDO CERÓN**

IN THIS ISSUE.
Cover Model, Guest: **TERESA RODRIGUEZ**
Public Relations: **HAUTE & ELITE PR** for **PLPG GLOBAL MEDIA**

Copyediting, Design And Layout: **644 CREATIVE MEDIA**
Social Media Management: **644 CREATIVE MEDIA**

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Whatsapp: +57-317-3996034 | +57 318-3917637

advertising@plpg-globalmedia.com salons@plpg-globalmedia.com submit@plpg-globalmedia.com

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A woman is standing in a doorway, looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a black, long-sleeved, floor-length dress with a high collar and a small, light-colored 'B' logo on the waist. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some architectural details like a wooden door frame and a wall with a decorative element. The lighting is soft, highlighting her face and the texture of the dress.

BALENCIAGA



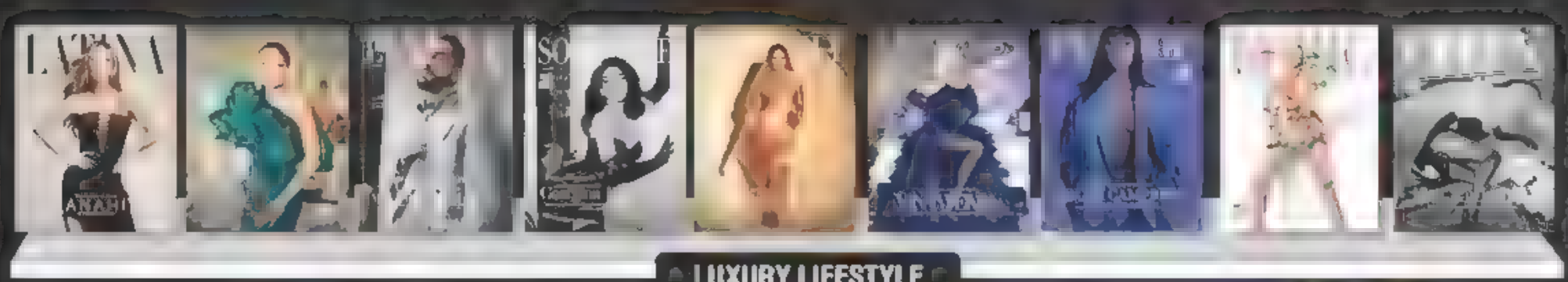


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The world knows Nicole Kidman for her excellent performances on screen, style on the red carpet and passionate commitment to women's rights. We know her as a friend. A brand ambassador since 2005, Nicole has wit, grace and exceptional taste in watches. She loves to select a model to suit her mood. Here she wears the Constellation Small Seconds in 18K Sedna™ Gold, with a sun-brushed burgundy dial. A watch with almost as many diamonds as Nicole has awards.

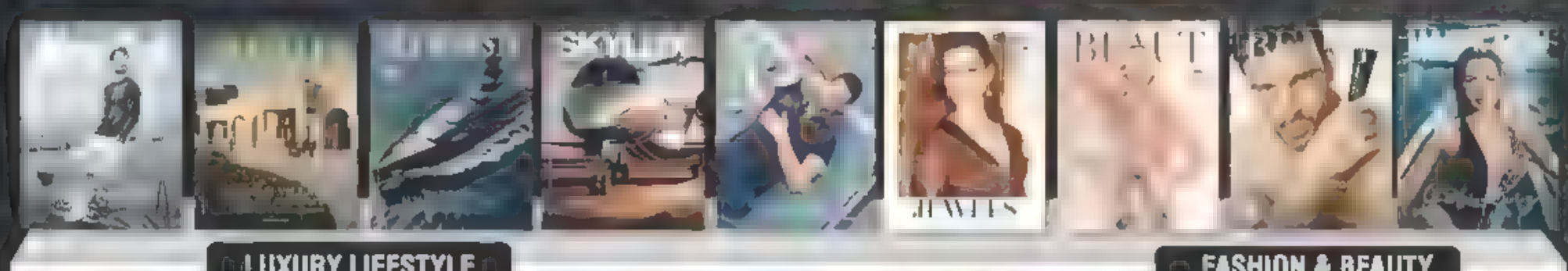
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OMEGA



LUXURY LIFESTYLE

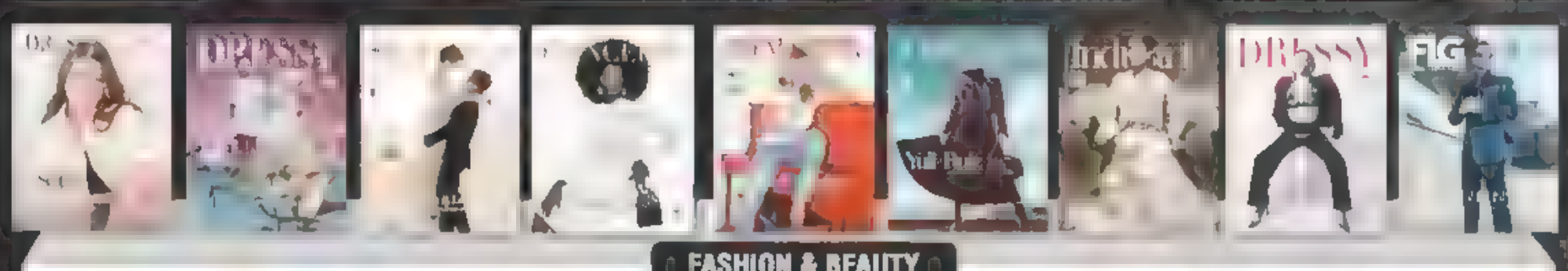


LUXURY LIFESTYLE



LUXURY LIFESTYLE

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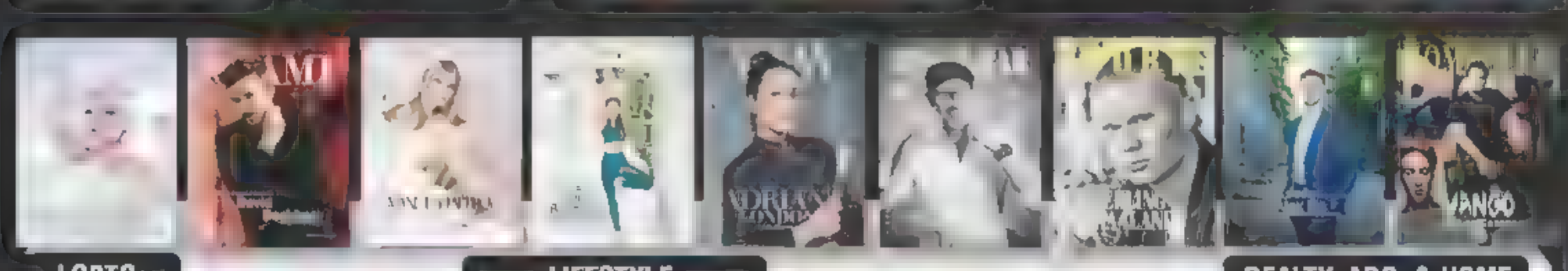


FASHION & BEAUTY



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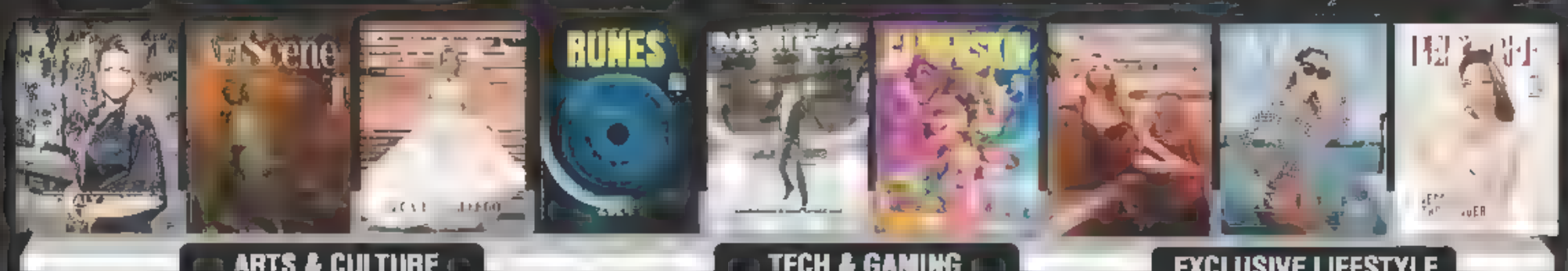
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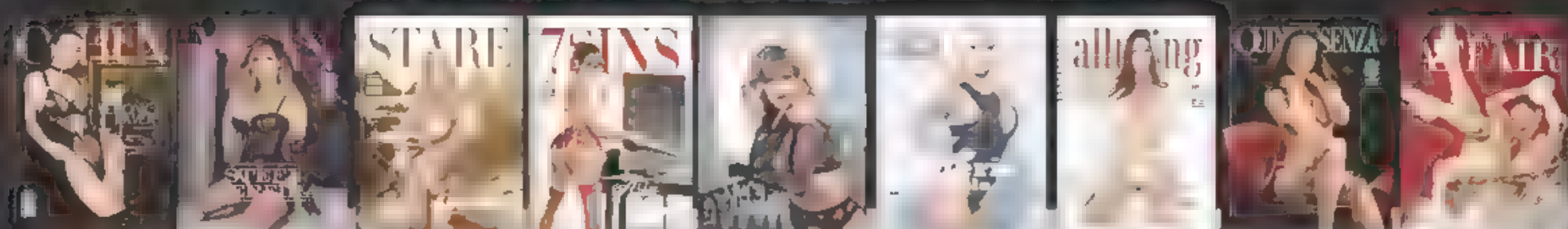
REALTY, ARQ. & HOME



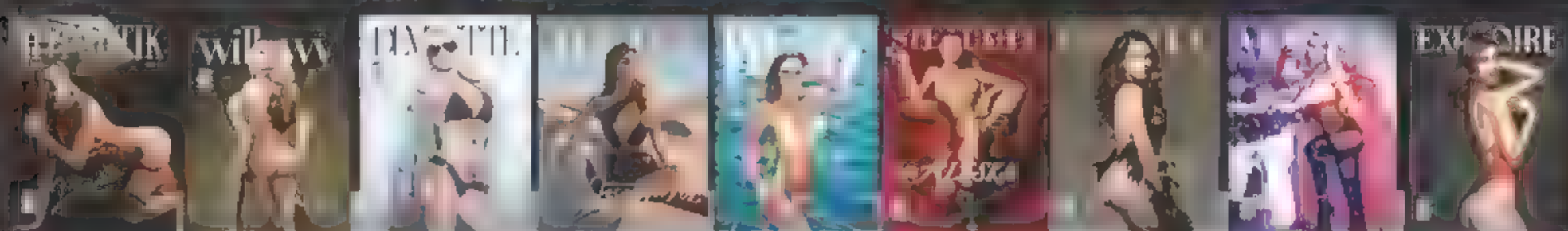
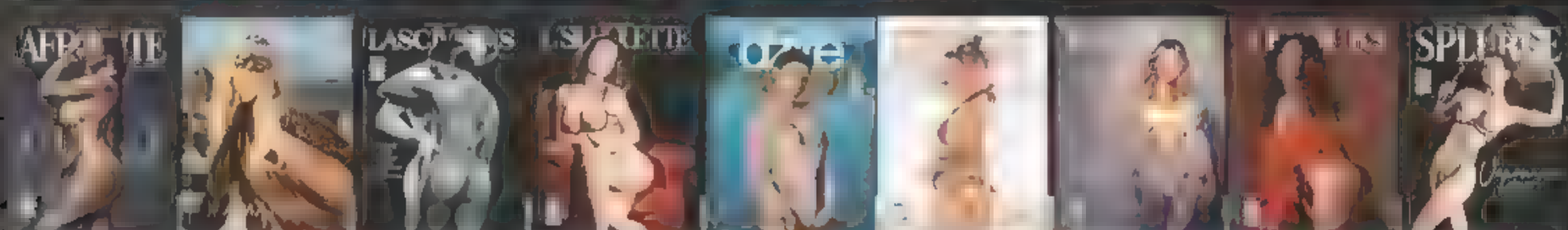
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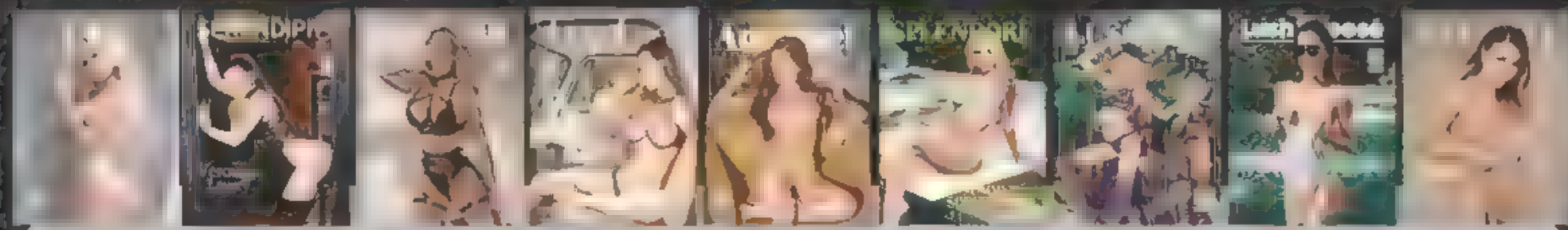
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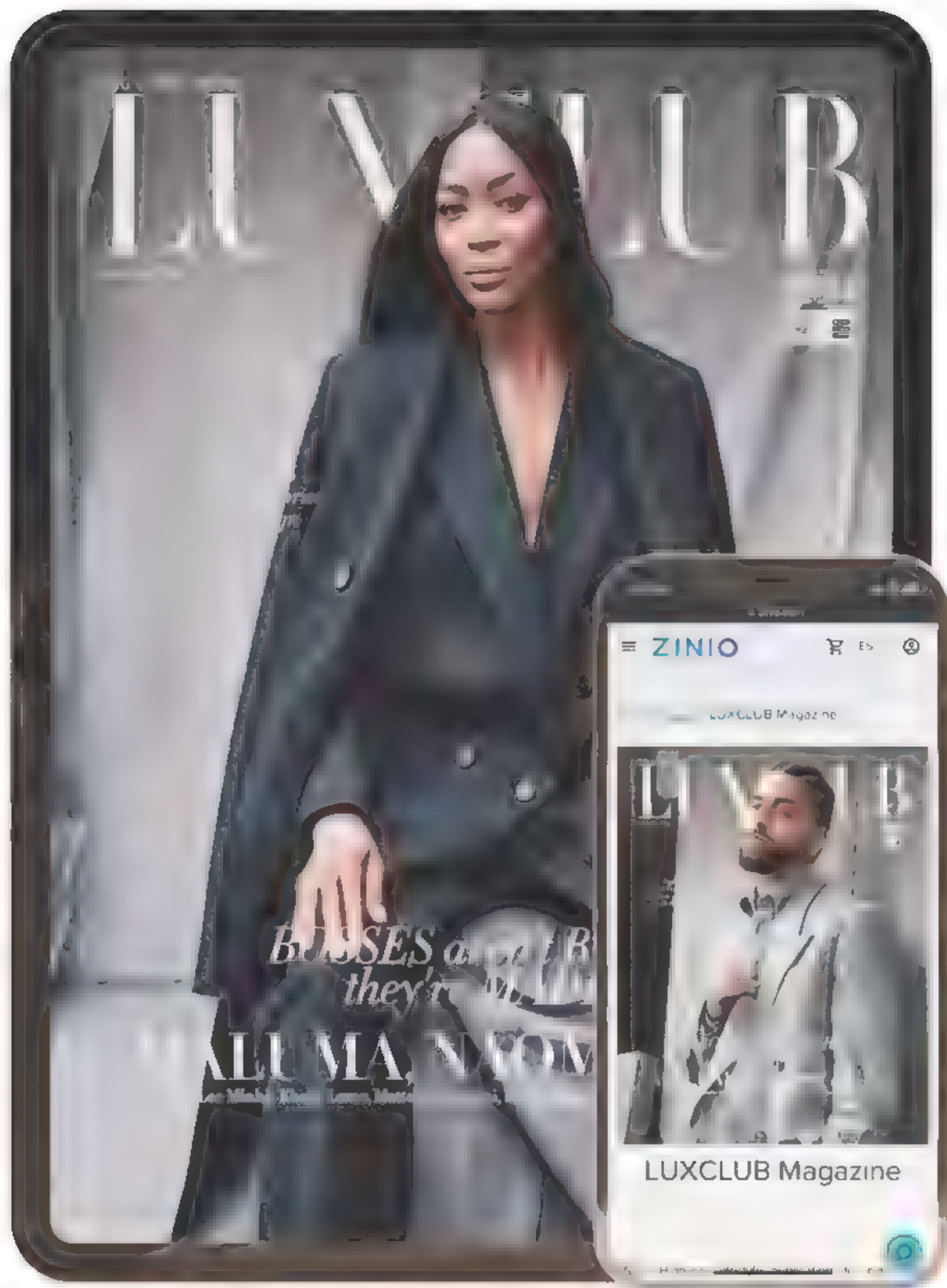
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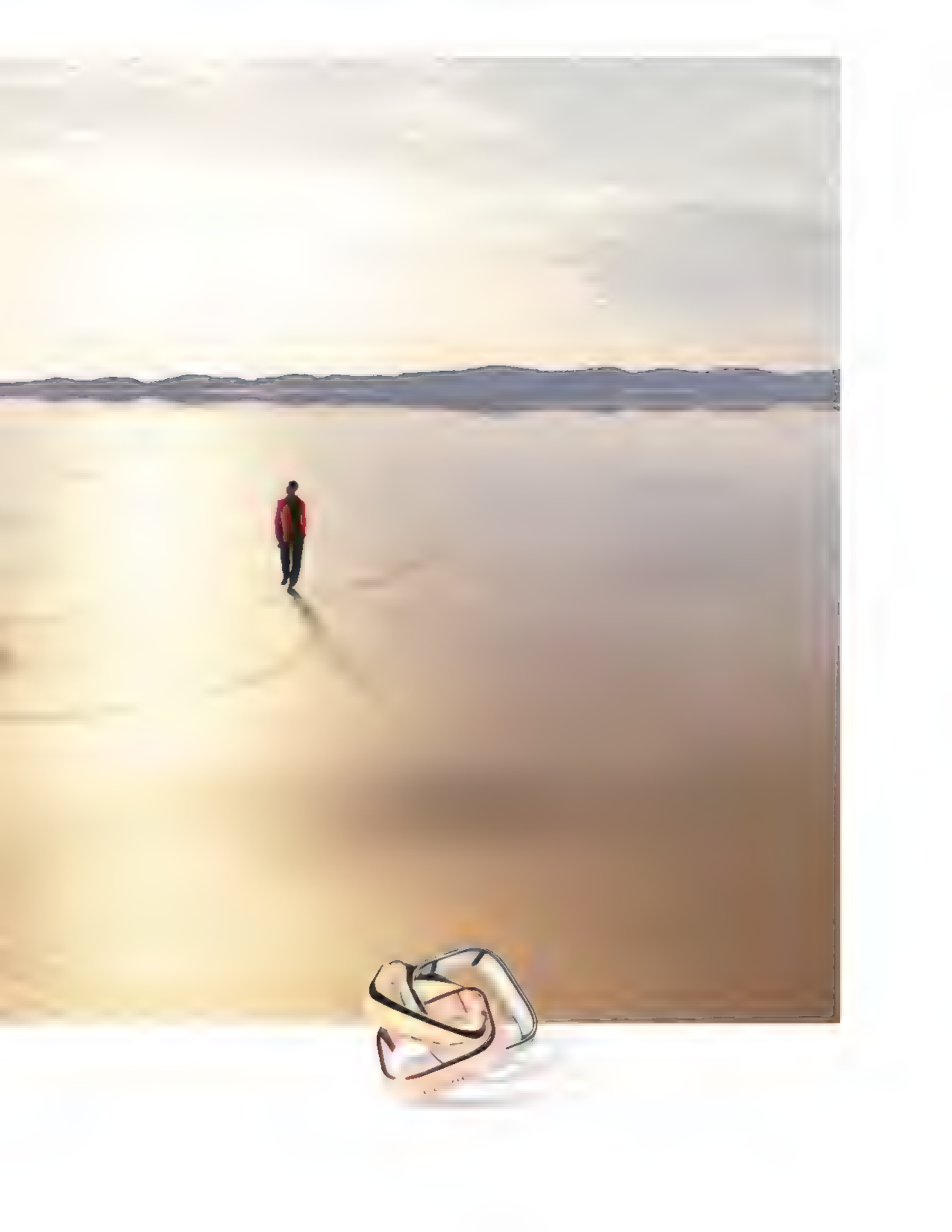
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Visiting El Palacio de Hierro in Mexico City to explore the María Félix y la Moda exhibit was an experience akin to stepping into a grand cinematic scene. Celebrating the 110th anniversary of María Félix's birth, the exhibit meticulously curated by the iconic department store offered a rare glimpse into the life of a woman who was not just a film star but a fashion legend.

María Félix, known as "La Doña," was a force of nature whose influence on Mexican cinema and global fashion remains unparalleled. Her story is one of audacity and self-invention. Born in 1914, she soared to stardom with no formal acting training, relying solely on her formidable presence and innate talent. As Octavio Paz insightfully noted, she invented herself—a feat that resonates with her fearless approach to both life and art.

Her refusal to settle for Hollywood roles that did not meet her standards speaks volumes about her integrity and vision. Félix demanded substantial characters and advocated for women's fair pay and better representation in an era when these issues were barely acknowledged. Her career decisions set the stage for discussions on inclusivity and women's rights within the industry.

María's relationships with notable figures like Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, Jean Cocteau, and Jean Paul Sartre added layers to her iconic status. These friendships not only underscored her influence in artistic circles but also her allure that transcended the film industry. Artists like Rivera and Leonora Carrington captured her enigmatic charm in their paintings, while thinkers like Cocteau and Sartre were captivated by her intellect and wit.

María was always surrounded by the best jewels, the best clothes, the best artifacts—but above all, the most intelligent people.

The exhibit itself was a carefully arranged collection of personal items and artifacts from María's life, including pieces from her residences in Paris, Mexico City, and Cuernavaca. The centerpiece was a stunning painting by her long-time partner Antoine Tzapoff, portraying María in all her regal poise.

The exhibit at El Palacio de Hierro was a treasure trove of María's personal artifacts, from tortoiseshell hair clips to the Venetian chairs she insisted on bringing to a televised interview in 1991, ensuring her environment reflected her impeccable taste. Each item, a narrative of luxury and eccentricity that María embodied.







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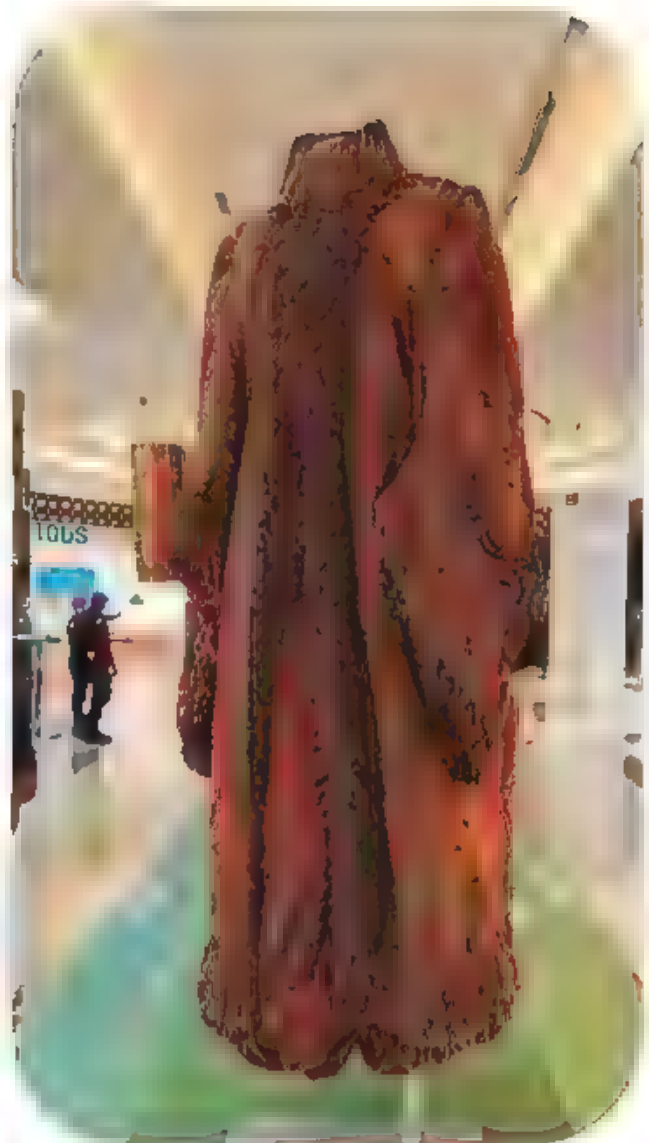


The mannequins dressed in pieces from Christian Dior, Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent, Emilio Pucci, and Hermès not only showcased her exquisite taste but also her ability to blend high fashion with personal flair.

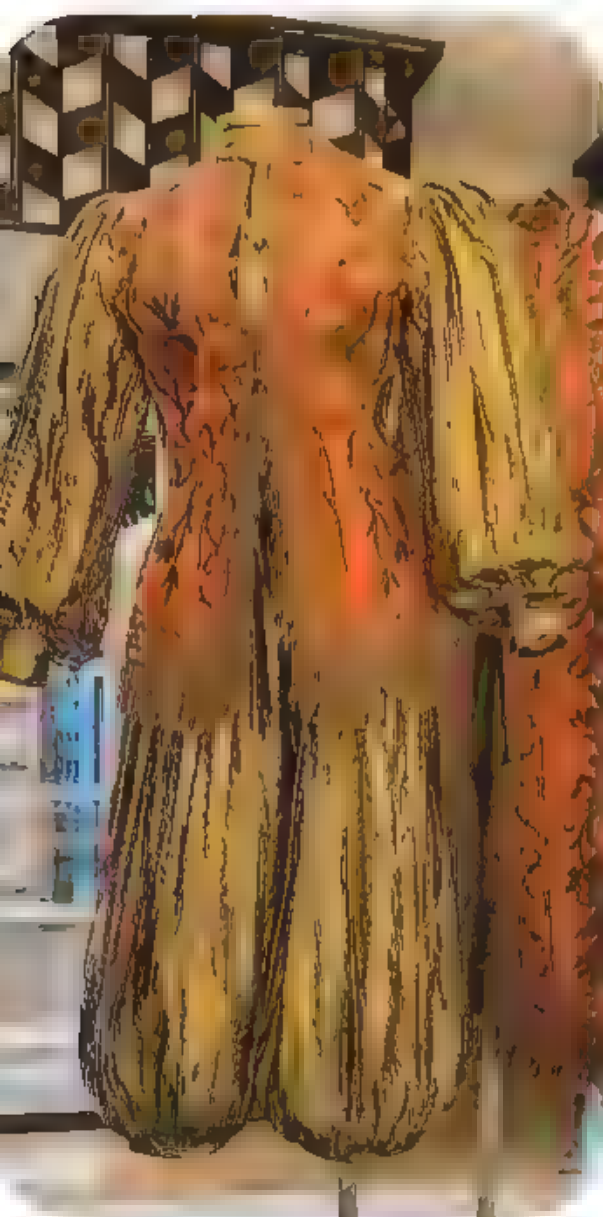
Maria's influence on fashion was legendary. She had a particular affinity for the dramatic and the opulent, often directly influencing the creations made for her. Her legendary collaboration with Cartier led to the creation of iconic pieces like the baby crocodile necklace, demonstrating her love for the bespoke and the unique. This zest for personalized luxury fashion was evident throughout her life, whether she was having stores like Saks Fifth Avenue opened after hours in New York or dictating that her film costumes come directly from El Palacio de Hierro.

One of the most mesmerizing stories featured in the exhibit was that of the crocodile necklace. Legend has it that María Félix walked into Cartier with a live baby crocodile in a glass jar, demanding a piece of jewelry that replicated its awe-inspiring form. Cartier rose to the challenge, crafting a necklace that is celebrated as a masterpiece of jewelry design.

The exhibit did not just display clothes, it breathed life into María Félix's story, allowing attendees to traverse the contours of her personality and career. For fashion aficionados



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and cinema lovers alike, the exhibition provided a multifaceted look at how María's fashion sense was intertwined with her cinematic roles, personal life, and the broader cultural landscapes she influenced.

As someone who grew up mesmerized by María Félix's films, visiting this exhibit was not just a pilgrimage but a profound personal journey. El Palacio de Hierro, with its luxurious ambiance and sophisticated collections, proved to be the perfect backdrop for celebrating such a monumental figure. It underscored that real luxury is timeless and that María Félix's legacy is as vibrant today as it was during the golden age of Mexican cinema.

Walking through El Palacio de Hierro felt akin to exploring the renowned corridors of Neiman Marcus or Bergdorf Goodman in their prime—each corner curated to offer an immersive luxury experience that María herself would have cherished.

In conclusion, the María Félix y la Moda exhibit at El Palacio de Hierro was more than just an exhibition; it was an immersive experience that captured the essence of a woman who lived defiantly on her own terms. It was a fitting tribute to La Dona's enduring impact on fashion and film, a reminder of her unapologetic spirit and timeless allure of true style and substance.

Créditos

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María y la Moda 1914 - 2024

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FLORIAN



FLORIANA PETERSEN

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A Creative Translator of Dreams

By Geraldine Zalcita

Floriana Petersen is a woman whose life has been imbued with deep respect and reverence for the artistic techniques of the past. Floriana was born and raised in Slovenia, a country known for its abundant natural beauty. “When I was born, my mother was walking by the river, which ran past our house into a small town in western Slovenia. She dropped her scarf into the water and as she tried reaching for it, the water swept her away. When people standing on a nearby bridge witnessed what transpired, they rushed to pull her out of the water. During the rescue process, my mother gave birth to me. Born into a raging river is how I will always think of it,” she shares.

As a child, Floriana shared had a profound love for nature and enjoyed spending time in the fields and forests that surrounded her. She often got lost in the woods, but these moments allowed her to daydream. As a teenager, she spent her time drawing and sewing, and discovered her passion for art.



Floriana's great-grandfather died in World War I. To stimulate the economy, the state provided surviving families with a means to recover. A sewing machine was given to Floriana's great-grandmother, which became a tool for work. As a result, Floriana's grandmother and her sisters became seamstresses, the same with her mother and her aunt, who started their own businesses. Floriana grew up surrounded by fabrics and her aunt would often take her to fabric stores and ask for her opinion.

As a student of art history, Floriana worked tirelessly restoring old frescoes, gaining an appreciation for the meticulous work behind beautiful objects and spaces. "I frequently visited Venice, which is located just about an hour and a half away from my home. Seeing all the beautiful artwork there inspired me and helped me understand the world of art. It motivated me to pursue a degree in art history so that I could gain a deeper understanding of how art evolves over time. With art restoration and art history, I learned that it requires a great deal of patience. It's like chiseling away at plaster, where you have to be both gentle and persistent to get underneath it. This process taught me to be more patient and gentle in all aspects of life," she defines.

As Floriana traveled throughout Europe, she was inspired by the fine designs she encountered. "Each time I traveled, I often found myself admiring the villas, paintings, and museums. One particular moment that stood out to me was when I saw the Sistine Chapel in Rome. I was so captivated by its beauty that I wished I could just stay there and stare at it all day. Another occasion was when I saw the Ferrari for the first time, I was in complete awe. Everywhere I looked, there was something beautiful to admire, from the old villas to the modern buildings, how the modern design mixed with old architecture. It was inspiring to see how everything could integrate so seamlessly," she relays.

This passion for design would eventually lead Floriana to San Francisco in 1986, where she soon started her own business designing accessories. There, she fused the fine craftsmanship that she acquired in Europe with contemporary American design. "At first, I

didn't plan on staying long, but then, I became curious about living in San Francisco and wanted to explore the possibility. I started to make leather bags, inspired by old doctor's bags with carved jaguar heads on the end of the frames. The bags hinted adventure and they were very successful, but also very time-consuming to make," she informs.

Eventually, Floriana ventured into making leather book covers and boxes and established her company, On Your Marque in 1994. She was again juxtaposing old craftsmanship with a modern look, instead of embossing, she debossed the leather.

At a trade show that she joined, Floriana met a buyer for Oprah's books, who became a long-term client. The quality of her work was quickly recognized, and aside from Oprah, her clients included prominent individuals and organizations such as the San Francisco 49ers and Rolling Stone magazine. Her work was featured in prestigious venues like the American Craft Museum in New York and the Tercera Gallery in San Francisco and Palo Alto, as well as Gump's, Barney's (New York and Tokyo), and Newman Marcus.

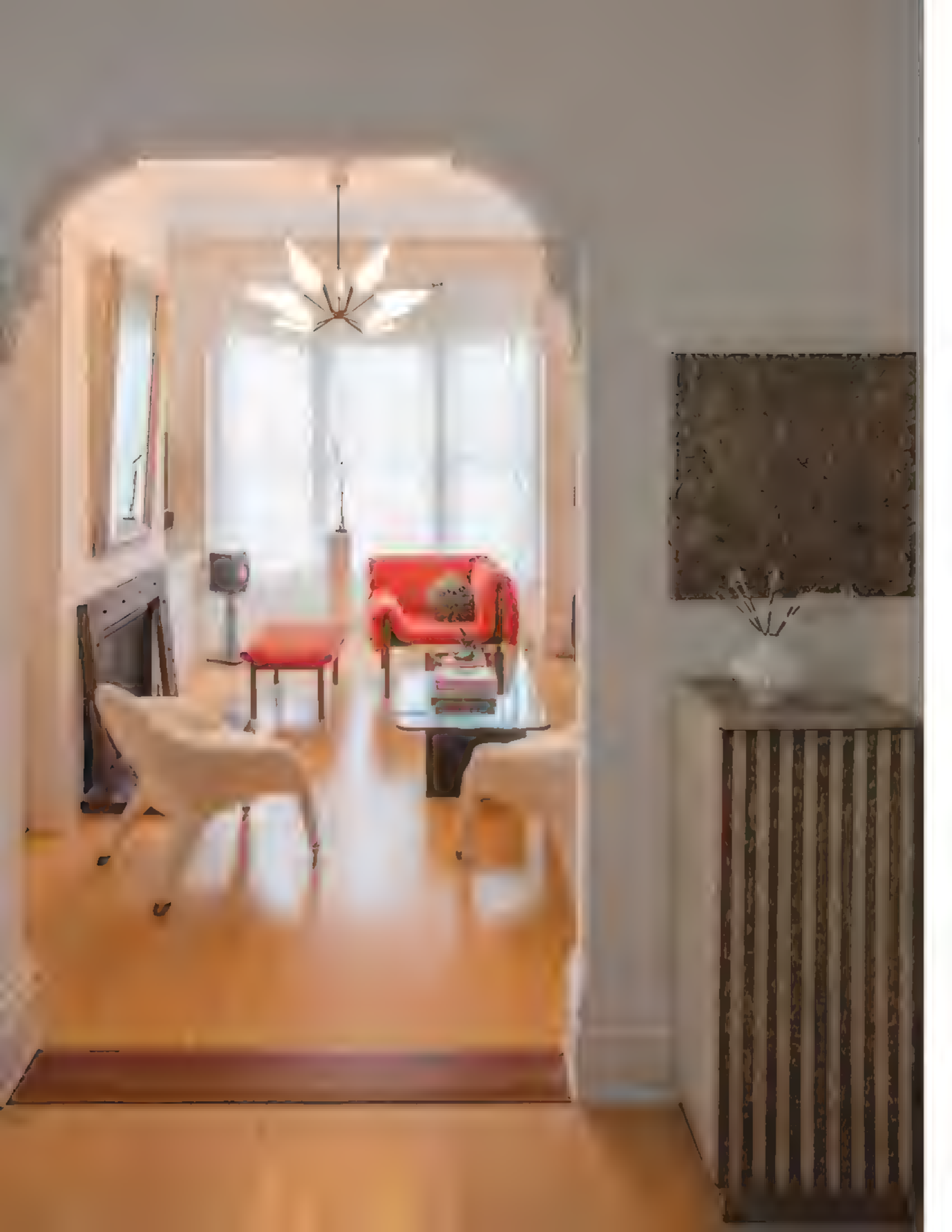
After fifteen years in the luxury gift business, Floriana decided to focus her attention on the world of interior design. In 2009, she spearheaded Floriana Interiors. Integrating her European elegance with her extensive background in art history, Floriana creates desirable and captivating environments.

Floriana works closely with her clients, carefully considering their ideas and needs, and adding a personal touch that carries depth and value. "This is why I spend so much time finding out who I am working for," she explains. "I am the consummate listener, but my interest is as much what materials or colors a client prefers, or what kind of light they're drawn to. However, what attracts me the most is the nature of their own creativity because sometimes I am simply their conduit, the one who can take what they imagine and bring it to life. It's like translating people's thoughts into a creative reality. I believe I am the translator of people's dreams." She beams with pride.









When asked about what makes a space welcoming and intriguing, Floriana responds by saying that she starts with symmetry but then breaks it at a certain point to add more interest. “I have a penchant for recasting an object, for transforming what is already there, be it a centerpiece, something that always sparks conversation among clients and friends. Many of my clients travel and collect things, so I like to display their collections as a way to showcase their personality and style,” she narrates.

Floriana also values airiness and flow in a space, and she often imagines how different rooms connect. “For example, even if the dining room and the living room are different, there has to be something that connects them, like a river that runs from a mountain through a forest, and fields and it’s the same river, but nature changes. I use this philosophy to connect different spaces in a way that feels seamless and cohesive,” she describes.

She often collaborates with her live-in partner, Steve Werney who is a contractor and photographer. Recently, they worked on several restaurants and bars, including the BeeHive Bar on Valencia Street and Heartwood Bar, located near TransAmerica building.

Floriana is grateful for all the work that she does and loves that her mind is constantly generating new ideas and solutions. Through years of experience, Floriana has learned the significance of listening carefully to her clients’ needs and desires. For Floriana, creating a space that truly resonates with the client, requires comprehension of their vision and preferences. When working on a new residential or commercial property, Floriana likes to have a couple of consultations with her clients. In the initial meeting, they discuss what her clients want and expect, as well as their history, favorite colors, and aspirations. Floriana then creates a mood board to infuse the colors and design ideas. Before presenting the final design to the clients, Floriana revises it until it depicts the client’s vision.

Additionally, Floriana has gained the knowledge not to make promises that can’t be kept when it comes to delivery time since she needs to account for unexpected delays. “Finishing a project and seeing all

of your ideas come to life is an incredibly rewarding experience. It’s amazing to see the final product and realize that the project is now alive and tangible,” she expresses.

As an interior designer, every project presents its own set of challenges for Floriana. However, over the past few years, since the pandemic began, accurate delivery times have been a significant challenge for her. To overcome this, I had to be transparent with my clients and educate them on the situation. I believe that transparency is key in building trust with clients, especially during difficult times,” she reveals.

Maintaining a work-life balance is essential for Floriana who enjoys spending time in nature, exploring new hiking trails, or walking on the beach, where the sounds of the environment provide a sense of perspective on life’s challenges. She finds her work so fulfilling that it often feels more like a passion than a job. To unwind, Floriana also loves to cook, entertain, and host dinner parties at home so she can connect with friends and family. Their exquisite home, a creative family compound, was originally built in 1880 as a Victorian house in front with a carriage house in the back and horse stable behind the two neighboring lots. The carriage house was converted into a loft-like cottage house with high ceilings where Floriana’s daughter Adriana lives and creates art using dried flowers. The horse stable is now a dynamic multi-use space with a design studio at the back and complete wood and steel workshop in front. It’s where Steve creates artistic architectural embellishments, cabinets, mirrors, tables, or frames among other things.

Floriana is also the author of the book series exploring unusual places, including “111 Places in San Francisco That You Must Not Miss” (2015), followed by “111 Places in Silicon Valley That You Must Not Miss” in 2019. A third book about Sonoma and Napa counties is underway with Steve as the photographer of the project.

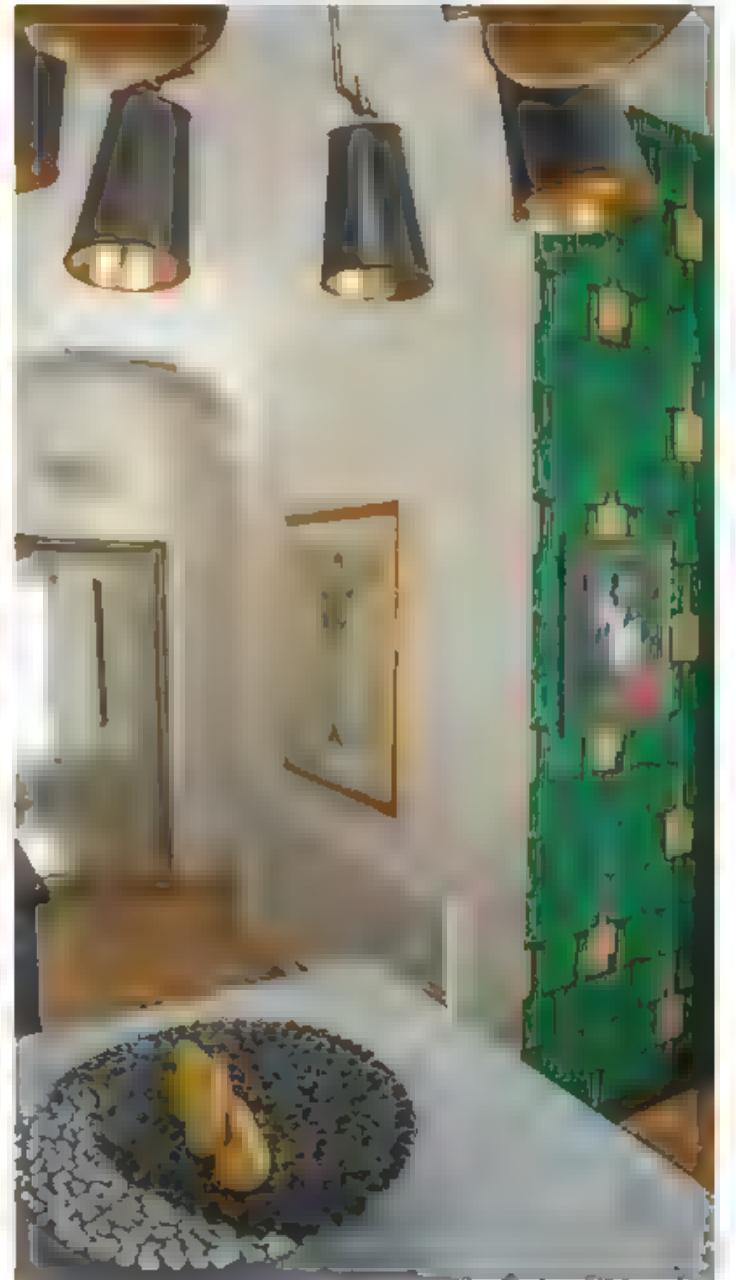
This talented and innovative interior designer has recently been focused on designing restaurants and bars but is eager to return to residential projects as she enjoys the variety and changes she brings to a project. Floriana hopes to work with clients to design their overall lifestyle.

*My advice for aspiring interior designers or entrepreneurs,
is to be courageous and not be afraid of taking risk.*





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Floriana concludes her story with nuggets of wisdom for those who wish to follow in her path. "My advice for aspiring interior designers or entrepreneurs is to be courageous and not be afraid of taking risks. You have to believe in yourself and your abilities to succeed, even when the road ahead may seem difficult. It's important to remember that success is never easy, but that shouldn't stop you from pursuing your dreams. Whether you're just starting out or have been in the industry for years, maintaining a positive and determined mindset is key to achieving your goals."

What makes Floriana's work truly special, is her deep understanding and appreciation of the artistic techniques of the past. Whether she is restoring an old fresco or designing a new space, she approaches each project with the same level of respect and reverence for the craft that she learned as a young art history major in Slovenia. In a world that is often focused on the newest trends and the latest fads, Floriana's work serves as a reminder that true beauty and craftsmanship transcend time and are always worth preserving. By applying the lessons she learned restoring old frescoes to her work as an interior designer, Floriana is creating spaces that are not only beautiful but timeless.

Similar to a compelling tale, there are many unexpected and delightful moments in Floriana's life, along with a fair share of twists and turns. Floriana's story is a testament to the power of art to transform our lives and the world around us. By dedicating herself to the meticulous work of restoring the past and creating new works that honor that tradition, she is leaving her mark on the world in a way that is both profound and meaningful.

Floriana Petersen is a skilled and creative translator of dreams who brings her clients' visions to life through her exceptional interior design skills and creative approach to interpretation.

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Featuring the Fashion Of Colleen Quen

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Union Square In Bloom

Featuring the Fashion Of Colleen Quen

by *Jessica Chilingarian*

At the center of Union Square, you will find the Union Square Alliance, an organization committed to enhancing the visitor experience by managing and activating public spaces, infusing creativity into the environment, attracting new investment, and advocating for the district's future prosperity.

The Union Square Alliance has recently launched a bright new campaign, "Union Square in Bloom," from March to August, inviting visitors to celebrate with community events amidst floral public displays, hotel stays, couture, gastronomy, and cocktails. A diverse array of businesses across Union Square are blooming in concert, including hotels, restaurants, bars, retail establishments, hair salons, art galleries, theaters, nightlife venues, and more.

The Union Square Alliance CEO, Marisa Rodriguez, developed "Union Square in Bloom" in 2022 as a modern twist on the district's rich floral history. A special component of the campaign is the unveiling of the Bloom Gown. This year's gown is a breathtaking creation by renowned couturière Colleen Quen and sponsored by Britex Fabrics, a historic fabric institution in Union Square. Inspired by the Dahlia, San Francisco's official flower, this piece epitomizes elegance intertwined with the spirit of the city. This year's design was created with Catherine Liang in mind, embodying the spirit of San Francisco's diversity and the generations of multicultural families who have shaped the city's landscape. Liang, a former Miss California and former Miss Chinatown, represents the beauty and diversity of the city. With each stitch, Quen's designs pay homage to her roots, intertwining her Chinese American heritage with the city's vibrant ecosystem.



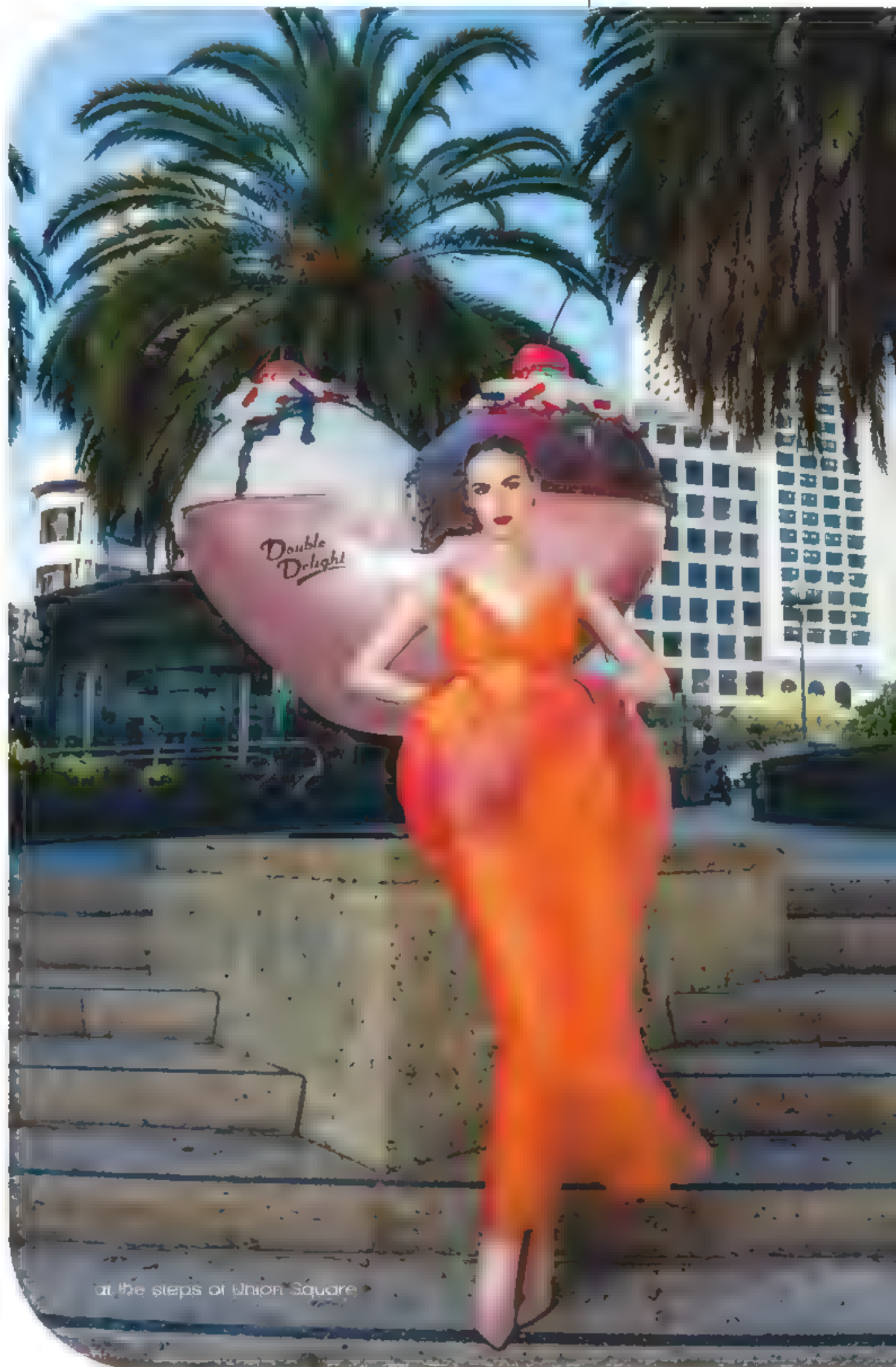
LUNCH CLUB



Union Square Alliance CEO Morisa Rodriguez

Embracing her vision of Bloom, Rodriguez steps into the spotlight herself, modeling the Dahlia Gown's Shrug at the 21st floor Starlite at the Beacon Grand Hotel. The breathtaking vista has views of all of Union Square and the building tops of Chinatown, the Financial District, and beyond. These breathtaking views represent the beauty and synergy this campaign brings between neighboring communities.

From the storied streets of Chinatown to the historic landmarks of Union Square, each photograph weaves a narrative that celebrates both the city's past and its vibrant future. Photographer Vincent Gotti captures the essence of a dress amidst a community's blooming spirit, with creative direction by Pande Productions' Eddie Cotillon. The artistry of hair and makeup is curated by Blake Charles Salon, a 9,000-square-foot salon and spa standing as a destination of luxury nestled along Maiden Lane. With makeup by Steve Wayne and hair by Daniel Violago, the salon brings decades of trendsetting beauty expertise to the shoot.









LU X CLUB





In front of the Westin St. Francis Hotel

at the Studio Room in Beacon Grand Hotel



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Dress designer Quen reflects on the journey that led to the creation of the 2024 Bloom Gown—a labor of love with 540 hand-sewn flower petals that symbolizes her connection to San Francisco and its vibrant community.

Against the backdrop of Union Square, Quen's designs come to life, a vibrant tapestry that pays homage to her heritage and the city she calls home. "San Francisco is such a melting pot, a diverse community," she muses. "I was adamant to make my name and branding here in San Francisco, not New York or Paris, to carry on my family roots here."

Yet, it is not just the garments that capture Quen's heart—it is the deeper connection to her roots that infuses each stitch with meaning. "Knowing that I am 3rd generation, and my grandparents and parents were both Chinese Medicine Doctors on Grant Street... My roots go very far," she reflects. "Our family is full of pioneers that brought the Chinese culture over to San Francisco."

Quen's journey traces back to her childhood, where she found inspiration in quality fabric. "I remember admiring fabrics in my mother's closet," Quen reminisces. "She used to design herself, and she designed my dresses when I was young, at 4 or 5 years old. So she had this amazing closet of fabrics, all from Britex."

As the photoshoot unfolds, Quen's designs take center stage, each piece a testament to her decades-long career in fashion. "These iconic pieces are 25 years old," she reveals. "A collection that was made a long time ago in my heyday designing for patrons of

the opera, ballet, Asian Art Museum, and the symphony." Union Square provides the perfect backdrop for these majestic couture creations.

The Westin St. Francis: This year marks the hotel's 120th anniversary, and to commemorate the occasion, The Westin St. Francis has unveiled its highly anticipated Westin Club Lounge. This sophisticated retreat, situated on the lobby level of the Landmark Building, is tailored to enhance the guest experience for Marriott Bonvoy members and guests staying in Club Lounge guestrooms. With personalized check-in, fresh floral accents, and access to a curated cocktail menu, the lounge promises exclusive amenities and services. Moreover, the hotel has recently completed a stunning renovation of its six luxury suites located on the 31st floor of the Tower Building, offering guests an array of exceptional amenities for an unparalleled stay.

Beacon Grand's Starlite: Perched atop the hotel establishment, the 21st-floor lounge has long been synonymous with breathtaking vistas and lively San Francisco soirées. The iconic Starlight Room cocktail bar, once a favored haunt during the Prohibition era, has been reborn as Starlite. Renowned designer Alice Crumeyrolle has lent her touch to the renovation, while the bar boasts a fresh cocktail menu crafted by Scott Baird and culinary delights by Michelin-starred chef Johnny Spero. Nightly all-vinyl live DJ sets by DJ Nina Tarr infuse the space with vibrant energy. Drawing inspiration from the city, Baird's menu features inventive concoctions such as the "cable car," a rum-based sidecar served in a mist of coastal fragrance.

LUNCH CLUB



at the Starlite Room in Beacon Grand Hotel





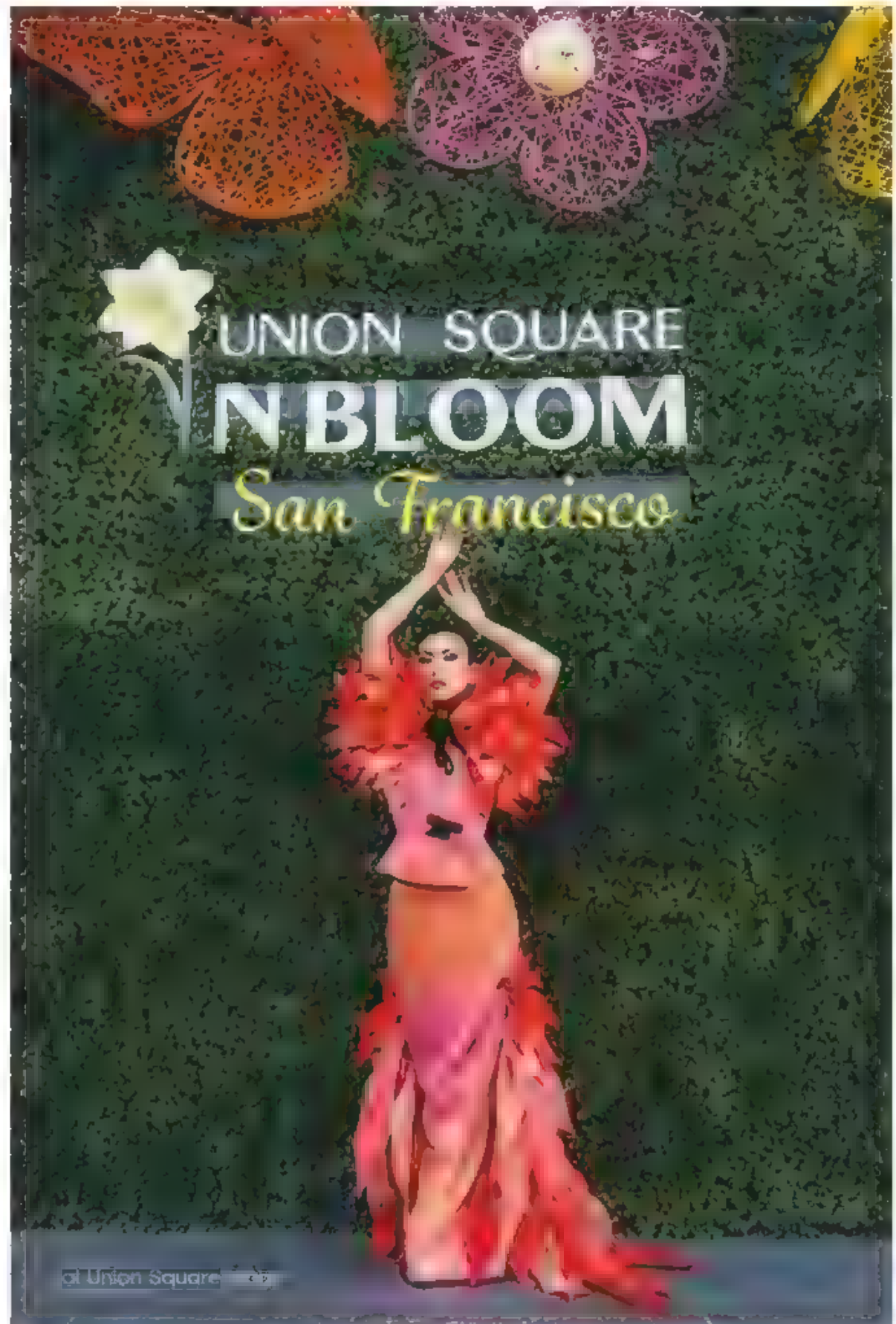
LUNCH

Chotto Matte: In late 2023, Chotto Matte made its West Coast debut, joining its global counterparts in the United Kingdom, Miami, and the Middle East. Known for its expertise in Nikkei cuisine—a fusion of Peruvian and Japanese culinary traditions originating from the late 19th-century Japanese diaspora—Chotto Matte brings its unique flair to San Francisco. This location stands as the company's largest establishment to date and its premier rooftop venue. The demand was palpable; within the first 30 minutes of opening reservations, the restaurant received a staggering 3,000 requests.

Chancellor Hotel: Over a century ago, the Chancellor Hotel emerged as a stalwart presence on Union Square. Originally erected for the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915, it rose to become San Francisco's tallest hotel a year prior. Engineered to withstand seismic forces in the wake of the devastating 1906 earthquake, it earned the moniker "virtually fireproof." However, financial challenges necessitated a change in ownership merely three years post-opening. It was Isador Rosenberg's vision that breathed new life into the hotel's future, striking a deal with the Bank of Italy (now Bank of America) and ushering in a new era under family stewardship. Today, managed by Isador's grandchildren, the Chancellor Hotel remains a beloved family-operated institution, steadfast in its commitment to preserving its rich heritage, delivering unparalleled service, and upholding its enduring significance as a cornerstone of Union Square.

As the photoshoot concludes, Quen's vision for Union Square in Bloom extends beyond the floral displays, iconic sites, and couture gowns—it is a celebration of community and collaboration. "This gown really comes from my heart and my hands," she says. "Every piece I make has some giving, it's a poem dedicated to you."

As the sun sets over Union Square, the city's blooming spirit shines brightly, a testament to the enduring legacy of a city that continues to blossom, inspire, and regenerate year after year.



This year's campaign is presented by the Union Square Foundation, Union Square Alliance, and Amazon in partnership with the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Community Challenge Grants, the San Francisco Travel Association, and Macy's.

*Models: Julie Nation Academy (Caylee Lamb, Devin Tischbern), Catherine Liang, Marisa Rodriguez
PIPG GLOBAL MEDIA*



BOSS

BOSS BOTTLED
THE NEW ELIXIR



BOSS



BOSS BOTTLED
THE NEW ELIXIR



Teresa Rodriguez

@teresarodriguez_sf

Teresa Rodriguez is a powerhouse—everything she sets her heart on comes to fruition. If you are to measure her success, Teresa's signature recipe covers all angles ranging from the level of her wisdom, the temperature of her foresight, the density of her hard work, the speed of her skills, the shape of her independence, the radiance of her passion, the texture of her purpose, to the volume of her perseverance. Teresa spells her life with the aura from within.

Fashion Director	ANTONIO CONTRERAS	@antonioeldeseo
Writer	GERALDINE ZIALCITA	@geraldineauthor
Copy Editor	KIEDO VILLANUEVA	@kei_villanueva
HMUA	OZZIE MENDOZA	@ozzie_mendoza
Art Director	NIGEL JOHN DEL MUNDO	@nigeldelmundo
Photographer	VINCENT GOTTI	@vinniegotti
Clothes Provided By	BANANA REPUBLIC SF	@bananarepublic
Location	BUENA VISTA WINERY	@buenavistawines



A Pillar of Possibilities

by *Geraldine Zialcita*

As a child, Teresa discovered her creative expression through writing, where she wrote poetry and short stories and stapled the books together. When her sister contracted a virus that made her handicapped, Teresa was compelled to write a book she was to title, *Penny's from Heaven*. "I wrote the first sentence which said, 'My sister's name is Penny, but sometimes I feel like she's not worth a nickel.' Looking back, I thought that was pretty clever for a fifth-grader," she quips.

Born and raised in the US, Teresa, who is biracial, embraces her American and Mexican heritage, culture, food, and traditions. Her father's side of the family played an instrumental role in Mexico, where they shaped and defined history. "My grandmother was born in the United States to a Mexican and Spaniard. Her father worked in Chicago but moved the family to Mexico during the Great Depression. My grandfather's father was responsible for liberating the Mexicans from the *hacienda* owners at *La Tepuza*. My great grandfather was shot in front of the *hacienda* and years later, the *hacienda* was converted into a school and named after him, Margarito Rodriguez. Talk about revolutionary," she shares

Teresa moved to Australia, where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Sociology, and worked in the most sought-after game show, *Blind Date*, and modeled. Aside from nourishing her love and passion for advertising and marketing, Teresa developed a fondness for travel during her term at the game show. This rekindled a childhood memory where she would explore the Atlas books at the library and dream of visiting different countries. "I would accompany the winning contestants to their destination, and this opened up a whole new world for me. Since I was alone exploring the sights and sounds while the contestants had their rendezvous, I discovered many exciting places to shop, eat, party, and relax. I gathered more information from the concierge, boutiques, restaurants, and clubs so I could be more equipped during my next trip," she informs. During her career as a model, Teresa was bursting with character and learned to

express herself on a deeper level. "I was a vehicle who showcased clothes and shoes and wished to emulate my personality. Clients were paying my agent a lot of money to represent their brands. I worked hard to create a compelling story just using their clothing, my poses, and facial expressions," she relays.

After living in the country for five years, this unveiled Teresa's ingenuity in the field of advertising and marketing, with a wide focus on branding. "A part of me always loved the fantasy part of life—the whole white picket fences, perfectly styled hairdo, and cozy lifestyle which embodied the *Hallmark* movies I watched. Growing up in a rocky childhood where money was scarce drove that longing to be a part of something bigger and greater than myself," she reveals. Through her ample knowledge, creativity, and broad experience, Teresa focuses on devising strategic marketing plans, projecting industry trends, establishing partnerships, and spearheading brands. Teresa's prominent clients included *SKYY Vodka*, *Nordstrom*, *Jones New York*, *Hard Rock Hotel*, and *Forever 21*

After moving back to America and settling in the Bay Area, Teresa realized how much she missed traveling. She also wanted to use her extensive experience focusing on a niche that very much resonated with her *solo travel for women*. Known to be goal-oriented and organized, Teresa strategized her travels by listing questions that fell into a specific category. "This simplified the process. The questions I listed were, 'Do I want to meet people? Am I interested in knowing more about the culture? Does weather play a vital role in my travel? Will I be attending an important cause or event? Do I want to party? Is it a social trip? Do I want to shop? Am I there to relax and achieve a nice tan? Do I require a specific budget?' All these questions serve as a guide in choosing your travel destination," she states. In her first book, she created the CAWS questionnaire, Culture, Activity, Weather, and Social. Readers took the quiz first, and then their CAWS score guided them to the destinations that would best suit their desires and expectations

"Through my own sorrow and fear, I found that
we keep trying to put on that we are not what we are. I think
we don't have any way of knowing that we are human."



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Her wanderlust has ignited Teresa to trot around the globe and share her favorite destinations. "I have a soft spot for Mexico because of the diversity, history, people, food, and their kind and graceful hospitality. I am fascinated with Berlin, how innovative the city is, and how they have retained their dramatic WWII history. I am enchanted by Barcelona's food and nightlife. I appreciate Venice for its history, culture, and art. I admire Sydney for its people, and my palate longs for the food in Thailand," she conveys.

During her trip to Lima, Peru, the plane encountered engine problems which triggered the siren, activated the smoke detectors, and forced an emergency landing. Amid all the fear, chaos, and uncertainty, Teresa realized she still had unaccomplished dreams and goals. Midway through the danger zone and silver lining, Teresa discerned a still voice an epiphany that determined the gateway to her future. "I closed my eyes and prayed for a safe landing, then made a vow to pursue my target goal. I noticed there was a huge demand and market for women to travel solo, given their various reasons and needs. My personal experiences provided the authority to offer detailed travel information and resources while ensuring one's safety. In 2004, I launched *Tango Diva* a social networking site for women travelers wherein we provide them with tools that can enrich their confidence and determination while traveling solo," she imparts. Teresa acquired prestigious clients like *Club Med*, *Miraval Spa*, *MBT Shoes*, *The RealReal*, *Marriott Hotels*, and many others. "I always encourage women to start small, like try watching a movie by yourself, or dine at a restaurant solo, or perhaps you can take the bus to explore the city," she adds





ACQUA

LUXCLUB





Taking it up a notch, in 2007, Teresa released her debut novel, *Fly Solo: The 50 Best Places for a Girl to Travel Alone*, published by Penguin which made it to the bestseller list and has been translated into four languages. In 2013, Teresa released *Body Mind, and Solo*, published by Balboa, which earned her a place on the TEDx stage and garnered over 1.4 million views. Teresa has been a torchbearer and visionary for solo travel for women and has shared her expertise on ABC, NBC, FOX, CNN, morning shows, and in national magazines. Teresa also wrote *Lily Sami, A Journey Through Life and Fashion*, published by Lucia Marquand. She co-authored *Alchemy of the Senses* with the renowned wine connoisseur, Jean Charles Boisset, which was published by Chronicle Books. Teresa curated the artwork and wrote much of the content for *Soul Machine* with Daniel Martin Diaz, which was published by La Luz De Jesus Press. She recently completed writing *Looks Matter* with SkYY Vodka founder Maurice Kanbar. Teresa has taught at FIDM, NYU, SFU, Stanford University, and San Francisco State University, and was a speaker at numerous conferences, including the American Marketing Association, PR Summit, Financial Women's Association, NAWBO, Asian Women in Technology, etc.

Forging ahead, Teresa has learned to fly a plane and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of *Haute Living*, a San Francisco magazine which releases six issues a year. She manages the editorial side of the magazine, events, and website. Working for a glamorous magazine and attending important events have inspired Teresa to enunciate her femininity a *fashionista* at heart who was voted *Best Dressed Ms. Vogue* in high school. For the yearbook photo, she wore a silk *Norma Kamali* dress with gold vintage flats bedazzled in rhinestones. Teresa also owns an impressive and epic shoe collection. "I was a foot model in Australia, and thankfully that's one part of my body that hasn't changed in twenty years, so I do like to dress my feet well. No one does it better than *Christian Louboutin*. I can be simply dressed in a pair of jeans and a t-shirt, but once I slip into a pair of his heels, the vibe totally shifts. I believe that's what good designers should do—amplify the look so you can feel like you've been transformed into something extraordinary," she expresses.

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Teresa believes that fashion should be a solid expression of who you are, not a manufactured look pumped out by social media. "My fashion style is simple. I ask myself, 'Do I feel good in what I'm wearing?' If the answer is no, then I change, regardless of the designer or the current trends," she confides. Teresa credits the designers who have shaped and influenced the way she dresses. "Johnson Hartig created a wonderfully whimsical brand with *Libertine*. He has the soul of a great designer like *Coco Chanel*, with strong lines and distinct silhouettes, but he is also very playful, like *John Paul Gaultier*. Each of his collections has a story to tell, and I appreciate that. I do admire writing and bedazzling on clothing, it adds that bit of rebel yell that we all enjoy tapping into on occasion. I love wearing pieces that tell a story, be it from the designer or about where I bought it. I have a pair of d'Orsay pumps I had made in Milan. I chose the style and the piece of silk satin with the couture designer, and there was enough material left to produce a small matching clutch. Every time I wear them, I remember the magnificent time I had with the designer creating my dream shoes." She smiles

After giving birth to her daughter, Teresa developed postpartum depression, where she questioned the value of her life and her worth as a human being. At the halfway point of her emotional roller coaster journey, a distinct character emerged in her mind. Teresa allowed the story to brew in her head and unfold naturally. As the story evolved, Teresa realized, during her lowest moments, how vulnerability can transition into creativity and transform into beauty. Her eyes lit up, acknowledging she had crossed over the non-fiction world into a playground of no limits: a riveting novel awaited her

After five years of conducting ample research and interviewing revolutionary scientists, Teresa is enthusiastic to release her upcoming novel,

Klothos. The book is a science fiction dystopian story that traces the steps of groundbreaking scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Particle Accelerator and their quest for the life-force particle and biological immortality. "I never anticipated how an idea can arise from raw emotions of sadness, but the universe will surprise you. It feels so liberating to migrate from non-fiction to fiction, and I feel more creative and have witnessed my growth as a writer," she reveals. "I've learned that there are always different ways to write—one sentence can be rewritten in many ways, and what's important is your focus on the essence of the story," she adds.

Although science fiction is one of the most difficult genres to write, Teresa has stepped away from her comfort zone to create flawed, multi-dimensional, realistic characters that focus on current underlying factors. "The story evolves on controversial issues like suicide, mental health, self-worth, and the disparity between the poor and the rich. Through my depression, I asked myself questions like, 'Am I worth being alive? If I could sell my soul, what would be its value?' Writing this book has been emotionally liberating because now I know that I'm not the only person who questions their self-worth," she says.

Teresa immersed herself in learning how the pineal gland works and how to awaken the third eye. She visited the Particle Accelerator in Berkeley and peered into the biggest magnifying glass on the planet that can spot your DNA, sending waves through a solid piece of matter moving atoms. "While gathering the pieces together, the vital question that came to my mind was, what if scientists discovered life-force particle threads and could extract them with a virus? I then ventured into the possibility of removing these threads from one person and injecting them into someone else, shortening the life of the first person and extending the life of the recipient." She beams with excitement.



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Teresa believes that we are in this world to create. She has taken her experiences and instilled them into each of the characters in her book. Her book explores molecular science by digging deeper into what the possibilities could come. "I draw inspiration from Greek mythology. In ancient Greek religion and mythology, the Moirai, often known in English as the Fates, were the incarnations of destiny. Clotho: Spinner, Lachesis: Allotter, and Atropos: a metaphor for death. They controlled the thread of life of every mortal from birth to death. They were independent, directed fate, and watched that the fate assigned to every being might take its course without obstruction. Both gods and men had to submit to them. My book is about what would happen if men disrupted this harmony and tried to control fate themselves," she explains

With her goal of making it a trilogy, Teresa provides a glimpse of the first book, *Klothos*, and what to expect. "Clotho is the name of one of the gods who spins the thread of life. I encourage everyone to dive into this dystopian love story where desire, greed, and mental health clash with secrecy, wealth disparity, and the frighteningly apocalyptic nature of viruses. So, I played with the names of the Fates and named my book *Klothos*," She smiles

KLOTHOS

THE THREE FATES

Three goddesses dance with string in hand

To measure the fate of every man.

First Clotho spins the threads that dwindle,

Lachesis then measures from Clotho's spindle

Atropos ends life with a cut of sharp shears,

She determines death's time, regardless of tears

It's Clotho who twirls the thread for each soul,

In this twine she gives them their just control.

Over gods and fate, she assigns their lifespan,

Until their divinity is destroyed by a madman.

"The moral of the story is that you can't buy or sell your soul there are consequences," she adds.





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Despite all the accolades she has achieved, Teresa has also incurred obstacles in her life. During the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Teresa caught the virus. "I was in bed for seventeen days where I had joint pain and lost my sense of smell. I felt like I was breathing from a straw," she discloses. Yet, there's no barrier that can cease this dynamic woman from attaining her goals. After recovering from COVID-19, Teresa donated her plasma to critically ill COVID-19 patients for a few months. Teresa bounced back stronger with a clearer mindset while learning to be adaptable to change and paving her way to the top.

As an empowered woman who wears multiple hats and continues to push the envelope further, Teresa believes in prioritization and balance. "I keep the clock and compass on top of each other. I don't watch TV and spend a lot of time reading books. As writers, we are responsible for our calendar and deadlines, which is why I maintain my rituals and outline my stories. I'm an avid believer of Stephen Covey's 4 Quadrants which are as follows: 'Quadrant 1. Urgent and important. Quadrant 2. Not urgent, but important. Quadrant 3. Urgent but not important. Quadrant 4. Not urgent and not important.' There are processes and solutions. These quadrants have guided me to be more productive with my work, protective with my time, and not linger on the unimportant things that don't bring joy," she verbalizes.

As a single mother to a daughter who loves writing poetry and editing videos, Teresa wishes to continue inspiring, encouraging, and empowering other women. She concludes this story with chunks of wisdom. "Through my own sorrow and fear, I found *Kluthas*. We keep trying to pretend that we are always okay and happy, but in reality, we don't have to always feel that way; it's what makes us human. There's a space between feeling like shit and experiencing joy, and the 'in between' is the sauce—that's where the real story emerges. It's the 'in between' that makes us shine. Know the direction of your north star; there will be detours and cliffs, but keep focusing on the light. Don't force things to happen; set your own course. Don't be so rigid; be like water that comes in different forms—snow, steam, rain, and ice—and allow things to flow so your life can unfold naturally. Forgive yourself and others."

Teresa navigates through her journey to welcome bigger, brighter, and better opportunities. She's living proof that everything is possible if you envision and claim what you strive for in life. Teresa Rodriguez serves as a *Pillar of Possibilities*.





HAILEY
FOR FILA



APRIL LOPEZ

@lopezapril

With a blossoming career in the art industry, April shared the same trials and tribulations that brought her today. Her journey to success was not without its challenges, but she persevered and emerged as a more resilient and talented individual. Her journey to success was not without its challenges, but she persevered and emerged as a more resilient and talented individual.

Creative Director: **BARRARA LEE BYCK**

Writer: **THE KILLER**

Copy Editor: **THE KILLER**

Illustrator: **WILLIAM YAN**

Designer: **COOKIE**

Location Director: **MARCO COCHING** @marcoycoching

Photo Assistant: **MARK JERIC AYALA** @jejeayala

Stylist: **JOHN DEL MUNDO** @john.del.mundo

Makeup: **VINCENT GOTTI** @vincentgotti





A Journey Within

An artist's venture into nostalgia and self-discovery.

by *Therese Alienza*

Born in the province of Hagonoy, Bulacan, April recalls her childhood as happy, delightful, and carefree. Growing up with a loving family of parents, grandparents, siblings, and cousins, her youthful years in the countryside evoke a strong sense of nostalgia, prevailing as one of the primary inspirations in creating her abstract works. She remembers roleplaying as a teacher to her cousins and siblings, showing them how to draw flowers, houses, or mountains. April's father was a businessman while her mother was a teacher, and she was often dropped off at the grandparents' home during their work days.

"My grandparents, uncle, and I were the only ones at the house, so I had no choice but to play all by myself. Sometimes I make drawings and paper crafts," says Lopez. During these visits, she also remembers the home's walls embellished with Renaissance and landscape paintings. A keen eye for art and a creative mind-visual cues that April innately retained since she was a child.

The artist's admirable bond with her father also plays an integral role at times of garnering inspiration. "My father used to work at our family's fishpond business. He was the one who managed everything... I can still remember how beautiful the cotton candy-like sky was, how clean the water was in the ocean nearby our fishpond," Lopez mentions. Her eminent affinity for nature and its wondrous treasures sparked a passionate curiosity for the arts, provoking her dream of becoming an artist one day—a dream she will eventually attain. But before becoming a developed artist, April took a different route in her journey.

Lopez graduated with a degree in AB International Studies at the College of Holy Spirit Manila. The artist had hopes of becoming a flight attendant but did not commit to pursuing it, even after getting accepted. Instead, she further explored her abilities through a series of jobs and gigs: taking over their family business and managing her own online shop. Most notable was her brief stint as a commercial model for print and TV commercials, working with established businesses such as Pioneer Life Inc., Philippine Airlines, and SMART Telecommunications to name a few.

At the height of her impressive and self-made career, it was also during this time that April started rekindling her artistic endeavors, channeling back her foray into the arts after receiving unfortunate news. "I started painting nine years ago. It was a hobby that turned into a passion. When my father was diagnosed with cancer, and eventually passed away, art has been my daily dose of positivity since I had anxiety and depression," says the artist.

For Lopez, her love for art had grown beyond just being a hobby. Though her trajectory into the field was quite heavy-hearted, art, since then, becomes her divine sanctuary, in light of recovering from personal struggles. Lopez states, "I watched a lot of tutorials, bought art books, and I also became an apprentice to an artist. My artist friends were also a big help to my art journey, as they share valuable knowledge about art". After honing and refining her abilities, April was headstrong in paving her course into the world of arts

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The artist's inspiration is intact with her gleeful memories back in her hometown. Her signature style is greatly reminiscent of the natural elements her mind often recalls; the soft rustling of trees as they are brushed with the soothing breeze of the wind, the ripples of water in their fishpond, or the marvelous reflection of the sunset and clouds atop of the clear ocean. "I've always admired the beauty of nature. To me, there's always been a connection between humans and nature. It can reduce stress in daily life and also improve mental health," Lopez mentions. The artist brings a pure sense of calmness, serenity, and oneness when it comes to her art style. Further, the works comprise of wave-like forms with delicate strokes, bolstered by complimenting series of colors, and contrasted with intentional or non-intentional tweaks of texture, depicting almost-flawless imagery yet leaving behind a hint of imperfection. "Sometimes I make accidental movements. Different from what I expect, but I always get happy with the result," Lopez notes.

Vibrant and endearing in every way, April's signature oeuvre is similar to her humble and charming demeanor. The artist's path to abstraction is also a product of her admiration for fellow artists, namely Georgia O'Keeffe and Juvenal Sansó. Sharing an affinity for painting nature, she's ever-driven and inspired by their life stories—extraordinarily reflected through their monumental opus. "Their paintings were also inspired by nature. Like Georgia O'Keeffe, she lived and traveled around the desert—drawing, painting, and sleeping under the stars. I also love the color and style of Juvenal Sansó's paintings. When I met him in 2014 at ManilArt, I was inspired by his story and art journey," says Lopez.

With a long-term goal to pursue the field of arts, her commendable efforts were granted when she was introduced to the Galerie Joaquin Group by her former apprentice and artist friends. She gained spots in numerous successful group exhibitions such as "Minerva: A 5-Woman Exhibit" (2020), "Gold and Glory" (2020), "Ode to the Abstract" (2021), and the most recent, "The Emerald Exhibit: 20 Years of Galerie Joaquin" (2022-2023) to name a few. Her continuous strides eventually earned her a solo exhibition at Galerie Joaquin Online titled "May Your Silhouette Never Dissolve" (2021), swiftly followed by another solo online exhibit at Art Plus Collectibles titled "Waves of Innocence" (2022). As her unique abstractions steadily garnered a network of admirers and clientele, April was given a spot in another solo exhibition, "Memories of Solace" at Galerie Joaquin Podium in 2022.

The exhibition was well-received with a generous number of guests: friends, family, and collectors that supported and celebrated with her throughout her promising course in the industry.

Now at the peak of her journey to date, April remains resolute and productive. Her artistic process involves drawing sketches of her vivid recollections before tapping into her preferred medium of oil. "Before painting, I draw sketches out of my memories from our fishpond, from seeing the nearby ocean and its calm surroundings. Our house is surrounded by trees and plants—at times I take pictures of the sky from our view, taking in the heavenly formation of the clouds," Lopez states. Listening to music is also a contributing factor to her ritual when she paints. "I usually paint in the afternoon. When I paint, I'd like to have music playing in the background so I don't keep track of the time", she mentions.

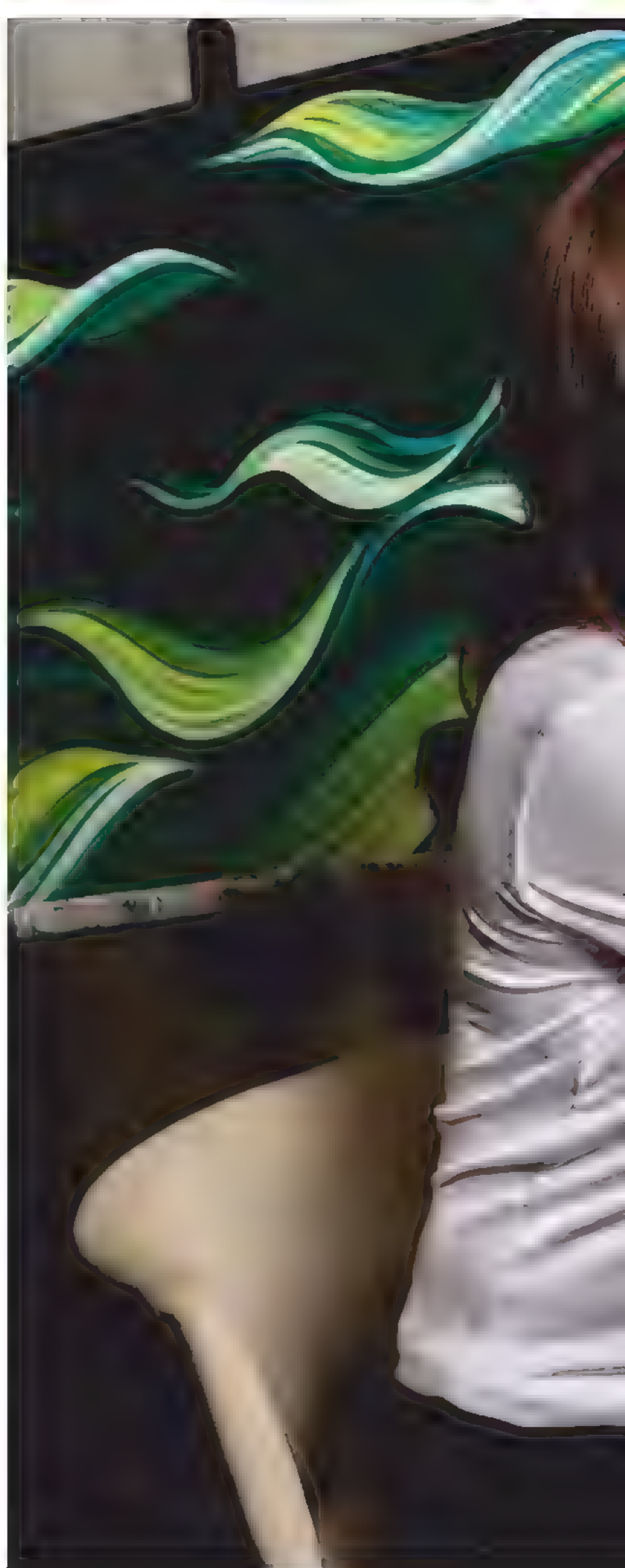
Amidst the detours and setbacks, Lopez kept her faith and courage intact and willfully pursued her dream of becoming a full-time artist. Others may ponder that she's a late bloomer in the field, as April only started to paint—and turned it into a career—at a later time in her life. But her age or her non-art-related background was never considered a hindrance. In fact, April's journey is a testament to how art is not exclusive to those with a former degree in the arts, or to those who began painting at an earlier timeline. Pursuing art is boundless of time, age, and circumstance. It is enlivened by human experience; a marvelous reflection of endless concepts and beliefs.

For April Lopez, her art is a visual memoir of her past, present, and future; a bona fide anecdote of her experiences that she shares through a medium where she finds most comfort. "For me, my art is like giving life to something from within that can be shared with everyone", says Lopez. Her endpoint was not primarily just becoming an artist. In reality, the meaningful lessons she gathered from her interesting life journey amplified and gave further significance to her eloquent imageries. Illustrating tranquil sceneries of leaves, clouds, and waves of the ocean, April continues to resolve in memories of her safe space where it all started—her hometown. Now in her mid-30s, April shares a beautiful life with a loving husband, a loyal company of family and friends, and adorable pets she endearingly calls her "furbabies". Her love for animals also comes to mind whenever she collects inspiration. "Sometimes my artworks look like feathers or fur from my furbabies", Lopez mentions.



Having shared her captivating life story, April hopes to impart a lesson from her ventures. "You are never too old to set another goal, to dream a new dream. If you dream to be an artist, you have to pursue it, practice continuously, experiment with different techniques," Lopez states. Regardless of the what, when, and where, one can never be too late to take on the course of their own journey. Otherwise, one can only be filled with regret and disappointment. "I loved art since I was a kid, but I only pursued it now. Nothing wrong with that, you're only doing what you've always wanted to do. Otherwise, you'll regret that you didn't act on it just because of your age. Sometimes we limit ourselves in pursuing something just because we're 'too old,'" says Lopez.

April's standpoint in life serves as an inspiration to those who also dream, who also want to pursue something that will set a mark in their life. Art-related or not, April's story is an overall tribute to courage, grace, and humility. "My goal and motivation as an artist are to grow and expand my knowledge about art. I still have a long way to go. I know there's more for me to learn", Lopez concludes.





Host: Fides Ganzon - Ofrecio
Guest: Tina Ganzon - Ozaeta



KILYAWAN FARM RESORT

@kilyawanfarmresort

A NOSTALGIC SOJOURN AND A SUSTAINABLE TURN

Tired from the flurry of modern life
and want to escape the frenetic pace in the city?
Kilyawan Farm Resort takes you back, quietly, to a peaceful life
in the lush, green hills of the province.

Creative Director: BARBARA LEE SYCIP | @bsycip

Hair and Make up: GEORGIA REYES | @georgiareyes29

Wardrobe

EMERSON BERNAL CEC PH | @emersonbernal

DM SUNRISE WEAVING ASSOCIATION | @sunriseweaving

KURUNGAN SA TUBOD FOUNDATION

Accessories

MENRIAM BATARA

Shoes

INNE STUDIOS

TAPAK PINAY | <https://www.instagram.com/tapakpinay/>

Writer: EMMANUEL RIGOBERTO TOLENTINO | @emmanuelrigoberto

Copy Editor: KIEDO VILLANUEVA | @kiedovillanueva

Art Director: NIGEL JOHN DEL MUNDO | @nigeldelmundo

Photographer Assistant: GREG REBUSTILLO

Photographer: VINCENT GOTTI | @vinniegotti

Ces: Costa, Tina Ganzon - Ozaeta, Fides Ganzon - Ofrecio



A Nostalgic Sojourn and A Sustainable Turn

by *Emmanuel Rigoberto G. Tolentino*

SO NEAR, YET SO FAR

Life in the city can sometimes be overwhelming, and we're sure most of you have thought of fleeing to the countryside, going off-grid, and disconnecting even for a while. So, pack your bags and head off to a nearby province to experience the simple joys of life while swathed in a few thoughtful extra treats here and there.

Hidden away as one of Batangas' best-kept secrets is the quiet and secluded Kilyawan Farm Resort that's strategically tucked along the Ibaan-Lipa Road, approximately 95 kilometers south of Metro Manila. This new eco-haven is surrounded by the best of nature, with clear skies, open fields, and fresh air. Rest and relaxation in this slice of paradise are nothing short of breathtaking, with the farm's beautiful pool, tall mahogany trees, lush foliage, golden sunrise, starry nights, delicious cuisine, and award-winning architecture.

Nestled on a lush 8.5-hectare agro-industrial complex that used to be home to some 55,000 chickens, the resort, owned by the Ganzon family, offers endless views of green in an idyllic location that will encourage even the most hardened city folks and work-driven guests to rest and reconnect with nature.

AWARD-WINNING DESIGN

Entering the resort along a gravel driveway, guests are greeted by the image of the local black-naped oriole, the kilyawan, for which the eco-resort is named. It leads you to a grove of mango and mahogany trees surrounded by several varieties of ferns and ornamental plants swaying lazily in the breeze. Right behind a verdant patch of greenery is the resort's main building. Abundant in wood, bamboo, and bricks, it is a sight to behold, as it literally glows in the brilliant sunshine.

Conceived and designed by the team of Dominic Galicia Architects, the architecture is deeply rooted in the authenticity of the place and the materials found on the site. This architectural gem pays tribute and celebrates the place's history.

"Our dad wanted as much as possible for everything to come from the site and that sustainable materials be used. Mom, on the other hand, wanted to preserve the memory of the former chicken farm," shares Tina Ganzon-Ozaeta, the resort's general manager.

Taking cues from the existing chicken coops, the old pedestals with a rich history to them, as well as the symmetrical roof with the skylight and the materials available on site, the expert team of architects and designers bucked down to work, ingeniously weaving their own story to transform the farm complex into a farm resort worthy of its heritage as envisioned by the owners. What they came up with is a remarkable new space where vacations become unforgettable memories.

Kilyawan Farm Resort is anchored by two buildings: the Reception Building and the Cabins Building. They are part of the eight poultry houses of the former agro-industrial complex and therefore use the original footprints and column footing locations of the chicken coops, plus the triangular trusses that served as columns and roof beams.

As you walk through the Reception Building you immediately notice the profusion of bamboo, recycled narra wood, and handmade clay bricks from the nearby town of San Juan. The skylight links the lobby, function halls, and restaurant. There is also a broad ceremonial passage that directs one to the swimming pool at the back of the building.



Hallway leading to the pool



Garden in between buildings



Sunrise of the Farm



Lobby lounge area. Pillowcases handwoven by Ibaan Sunrise Weavers

Kilyawan Main signage at entrance



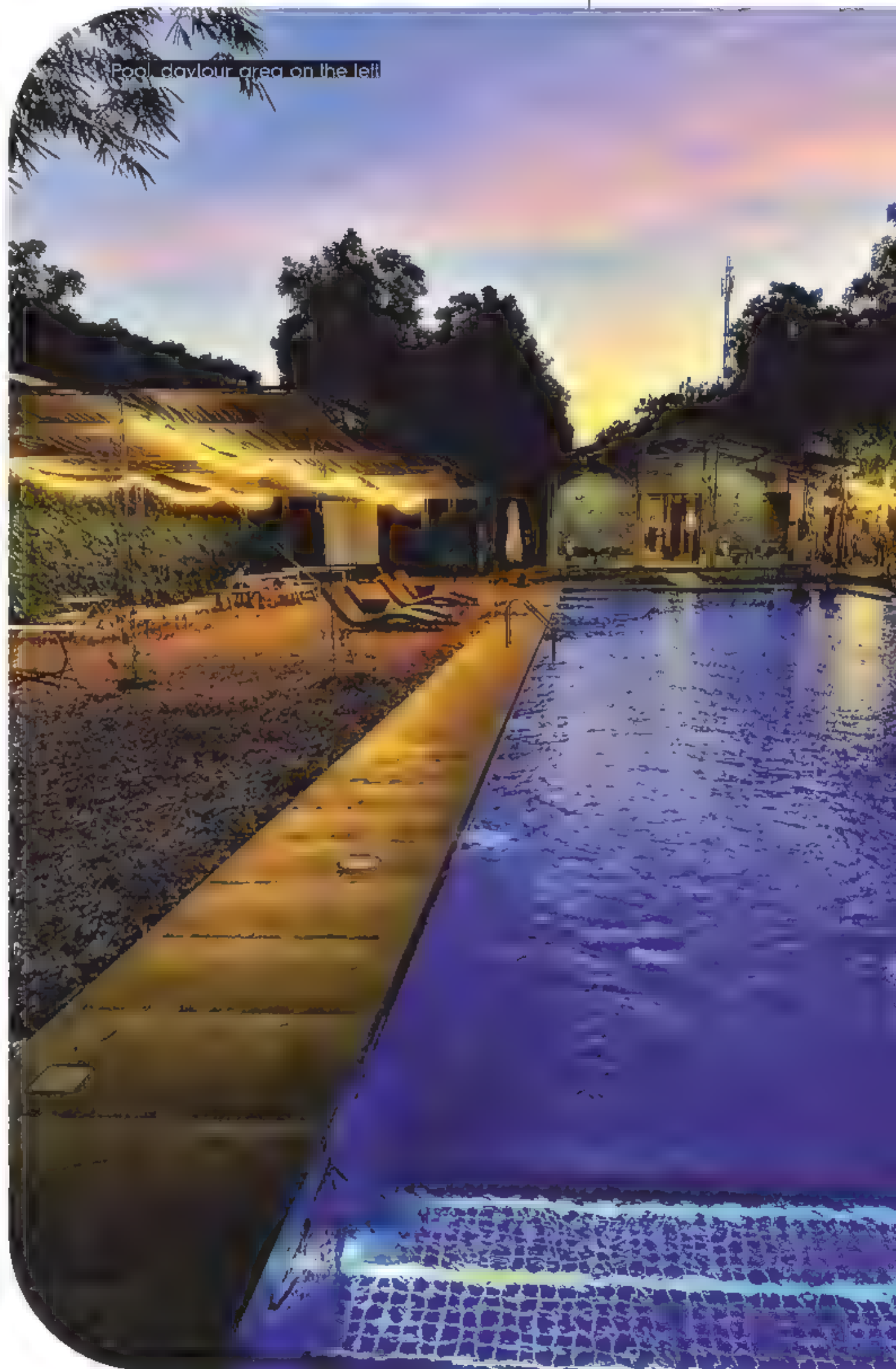
side walkway to the cabins



A premium on taste and style is evident in the cabins, whether it be the Queen (Cabin 1-4), the King (Cabin 5-7), or the Master Villa (Cabin 8). Each one is separated by courtyards. Going into the private quarters, your eyes are immediately drawn to the abundance of bamboo, recycled, and natural hues awash in the interiors. Coming closer, you gently caress the handmade bricks by Green Antz on the wall, feeling bits and pieces of what used to be plastic trash. You glance upwards into the skylight, and you marvel at the bamboo chandelier made of several bamboo circular hoops tied together and the two wooden ceiling fans in a rich dark wood.

You notice the decidedly modern, clean lines of the furniture and the rustic feel of the woven fabrics on the pillows and the bamboo bedsheets. Lovingly designed by Morfosis Design and meticulously executed by Focolare Carpentry, it is the perfect collaboration to bring the vision of the resort as a place to escape, experience, and connect to life. That unlikely fusion of the natural, the modern, and the traditional is the embodiment of what Kilyawan Farm Resort is.

Built over one and a half years at the time of the pandemic, the construction was a challenging task. "We coordinated everything via Zoom meetings," says Tina. The painstaking attention to every detail by the owners, as well as the design and construction teams, and their unwavering dedication to sustainability at every turn have resulted in Kilyawan Farm Resort being shortlisted for Wienerberger's 2024 Brick Award honors and Highly Commended placement at the World Architecture Festival. The resort is likewise a finalist for the Good Design Award PH 2024, the results of which will be announced by the end of June 2024.







Fides Ganzon - Ofrecio
Head, Finance and Marketing





Tina Ganson - Ozaeta.

LU NCLUB

FINDING A SAFE SPACE AND SHARING THE GOOD LIFE

According to Fiddy Ganzon-Ofrecio, it all started during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the Ganzon sisters decided to spend their days on the farm. With their husbands and kids in tow, they had a unique lockdown experience away from the city and the ensuing uncertainty that engulfed the world. Cocooned in the confines of the farm, they spent their days roaming around the property, biking along the bamboo trail, feeding the animals, and picking fresh fruits from the trees and vegetables straight from the garden. With the farm planted with several varieties of bamboo, cacao, mango, and other fruits, every day is a new adventure. The entire family played endlessly in the open air and basked in the warm sunshine to the relaxing sound of the rustling breeze and the call of the birds hidden in the treetops. Away from the comings and goings of the outside world, they took pleasure in the warm company of their loved one and re-discovered what is the most important thing in the world: family.

Imagine waking up to the crowing of roosters, the cool morning air carrying the fresh scent of dew-kissed leaves, and the sight of verdant landscapes stretching beyond the horizon. This idyllic rural scene is no longer just a nostalgic throwback to simpler times, but a tantalizing reality that the entire Ganzon family experienced away from the city during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. As they retired into the warm embrace of family, they also became more attuned to the rhythms of nature and the sustainability principles of going back to the basics.

It laid the groundwork for what is now a pioneering effort at integrating agriculture and tourism, fostering a symbiotic relationship that promises food sufficiency and additional income for tourism stakeholders, including farmers, farmworkers, and the local community.

GENUINE FARM-TO-TABLE EXPERIENCE

Whether it's dining amid the rustic charm and modern sophistication of the main dining area, sampling tummy-filling home-cooked goodness in the privacy of your cozy cabins, or indulging in front-row sunset panoramas in the outdoor pool area, the cuisine at Kilyawan Farm Resort is only made with ingredients fresh-picked from the resort's very own organic gardens, making the whole experience truly exquisite and wonderfully satisfying.

A cursory peek at the menu reveals a well-curated selection of traditional Batangueño culinary favorites paired with

homegrown garden vegetables and farm produce to perfection. Given a distinct modern twist, sustainability has never tasted so delicious!

Popular picks included Bulalo (classic beef shank stew), Sinaing na Tulingan (slow-cooked local bullet tuna in pork fat), Bulanglang (vegetable stew), Dashi Tinola (Filipino chicken stew with fresh ginger and Japanese dashi), Kilyawan Lomi (a hearty soup dish of thick egg noodles, vegetables, and meat), Beef Short Ribs Sofrito (tender short ribs braised in a rich sauce of sofrito and adobo sauce), Chicken Inasal (char-grilled or roasted chicken Bacolod-style), and Pancit Guisado (traditional Filipino stir-fried noodle dish with meat, shrimp, and veggies).

For breakfast, you can choose from Homemade Beef Tapa (cured meat of thin slices of tender beef, sometimes referred to as similar to beef jerky), Tinapang Bangus (smoked milkfish), Pork Longganisa (savory-sweet sausage made by stuffing hog-casing with ground pork, deliciously flavored with spices and seasonings), or Champorado (chocolate-flavored rice porridge made with sticky rice and local chocolate). When you prefer a light morning treat, there's Homemade Waffles, the ever-reliable Bacon-Egg-Lettuce-Tomato Sandwich, overnight oats, a smoothie bowl, and a vegetable omelet served with homemade mango jam and country bread.

Those with a sweet tooth will relish the Turon ala Mode (dessert version of spring rolls filled with plantain bananas, jack fruit, ube, and a sprinkle of brown sugar, fried until golden brown and topped with ice cream), the decadent Tablea Brownie (a rich and fudgy tablea brownie in a warm cup of local chocolate), and the melt-in-your-mouth Bibingka Souffle (fluffy egg whites, creamy coconut custard with toasted coconut bits, topped with cheese shavings).

To wash down all that freshly cooked goodness, you can pick either a steaming cup of Kapeng Barako (Batangas coffee) or Piñanggo (pineapple and mango cocktail) to perk up the morning blues.

This natural farm, located in a rural village in the town of Ibaan, Batangas, promotes sustainable farming and grows various vegetables and livestock. The farm emphasizes that it is not a resort but rather a natural and organic place where one can learn about clean farming practices, ultimately being inspired to live a cleaner and more sustainable lifestyle after your stay here. It's one of the best farms in the Philippines to not only spend a refreshing getaway but also learn about the food we eat and how it's produced.



Kilyawan Lami with chicken liver, lobster balls, pork, soy egg and chicharon. A Balanaas specialty.

Bibingka Sautile = fluffy egg whites, coconut custard cream, salted egg and shaved queso de bola



Pickled mango made by wives of farm workers using Golden Queen Mango harvested from the farm



Homemade Beef Tapa

Picked papaya



Sinaing na Tulingan - bullet tuna slow cooked using pork fat and dried kamias for 4 hours in a claypot. Served with picked Golden Queen Mango



LUNCLUB

ECO-TOURISM

As society begins to grapple with the devastating effects of environmental damage and climate change, eco-tourism has become the buzzword on everybody's lips. It is all about traveling in a sustainable, respectful way. It means trying to minimize the impact of visitors on the local environment.

Renowned conservationist Jane Goodall once said, "Only if we understand, will we care. Only if we care will we help. Only if we help, shall all be saved." It can be difficult to understand something that we haven't seen with our own eyes, and Kilyawan Farm Resort gives the weary city dwellers and today's new breed of adventurous travelers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gain new experiences when life was simpler and to learn to face the important environmental issues that we face today.

Kilyawan Farm Resort is more than just an actual working farm and your usual weekend getaway. It is a nature retreat that provides a serene setting where guests can relax and get a sense of inner peace. A few days stay at the resort is also an opportunity to savor farm-fresh, organic meals that are both eye-candy and tummy-filling treats for everyone. One can also look forward to an array of unique outdoor activities catering to a wide variety of interests. There's something for everyone that guarantees that no two visits are the same.

For nature enthusiasts and animal lovers, it's a chance to get up close and personal with farm animals, providing a unique opportunity to appreciate the beauty of nature's inhabitants. There is a guided tour atop a farm tractor and hands-on activities that provide insight into farming, agriculture, and sustainable practices that are not only informative but also enlightening, offering a deeper understanding of the importance of agriculture and Mother Nature in our lives.

Away from the concrete jungle, Kilyawan Farm Resort is the ideal spot for stargazing at night, with its open skies providing the perfect backdrop to marvel at the wonders of the universe. It is an excellent place to strengthen bonds and create lasting memories with family, friends, and even work colleagues. You can engage in leisure walks and bike rides among the nature trails and bamboo groves for fun and adventure.

Another huge plus is the chance to disconnect from technology and go off-grid, even if only for a few days, with guests enjoying quality time with loved ones and the natural world, fostering meaningful interactions.

There's also the chance to explore local culture, traditions, and cuisine, fostering a more immersive and authentic travel experience. Far from the maddening crowds and the noise of the city, you can enjoy a level of privacy you've always wanted but never knew existed.

With slogans such as "Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints" echoing loudly in our midst, the people behind Kilyawan Farm Resort, led by Tina Ganzon-Ozaeta, Fiddy Ganzon-Ofrecio, and Ces Costa, have taken it upon themselves to make that significant first step to champion sustainable living as the very core of our existence. It is a significant starting point, however, and a major step in the right direction.

Ecotourism is about more than simply visiting natural attractions or natural places; it's about doing so in a responsible and sustainable manner. Kilyawan Farm Resort is at the forefront of this "going back to the basics" effort to educate people, its visitors in particular, about conservation efforts while offering them the chance to explore nature while also learning about the rich, indigenous Batangueño culture, customs, and traditions.

A NEW BREED OF ENTREPRENEURS

At the helm of the pioneering eco-resort are the dynamic trio of Tina, Fiddy, and Ces. Former bankers and third-generation entrepreneurs are leading a team made up of dedicated local folks, the majority of whom are relatives of the former farmhands on the old poultry farm. Armed with business savvy earned from early exposure and forays into banking and a generous dose of pride of place, the Ganzon sisters, scions of prominent Ibaan business stalwarts, are at the forefront of this unfolding era of regenerative travel and are arguably the picture of today's modern, empowered, multi-hyphenate women who combine family, careers, and their advocacies with aplomb.

With plans for future cabins, an events venue, and a glamping sector already in the works, they are embracing their roles with a heart of compassion while keeping an eye on the bottom line.





Sunrise at the Farm



Lanai facing the pool



Mini bar designed by Mortosis.
created by Focolare carpentry



Breakfast in the cabin's balcony



with one of the guest in her cabin



Main reception

Jose Canzales - Cecilia (purple bolero).
Ces Costa - Olga (bolero).
Tina Ganzo - Ozaeta (yellow bolero).





Left: Fides González, Okego,
Fina González, Okeeta, Gas Costa





A PLACE TO CREATE TREASURED MEMORIES

If you're looking for a place to bring your family, friends, or even officemates to enjoy a private weekend getaway, this is the place to go. Marrying elements of a posh and modern tropical abode, Kilyawan Farm Resort in Ibaan, Batangas, Philippines, is a unique and refreshing alternative to the usual vacation getaways, providing both local and international travelers with a golden opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and immerse themselves in the natural beauty of the countryside.

It's the perfect destination for couples, families, colleagues, friends, or even companies looking to experience the tranquility of nature for their next staycation or team-building retreat. Whether you're seeking a romantic sojourn, a fun-filled family vacation, or a serene company getaway, Kilyawan Farm Resort, established on April 1, 2023, is the only place to be.

For inquiries and bookings, you may call
+63 915 266 4305 or email
reservations.kilyawan@gmail.com.





Champagne © 2023 imported by Moët Hennessy USA Inc. New York, NY Please drink responsibly

Dom Pérignon

& LADY GAGA

Rising. Always.

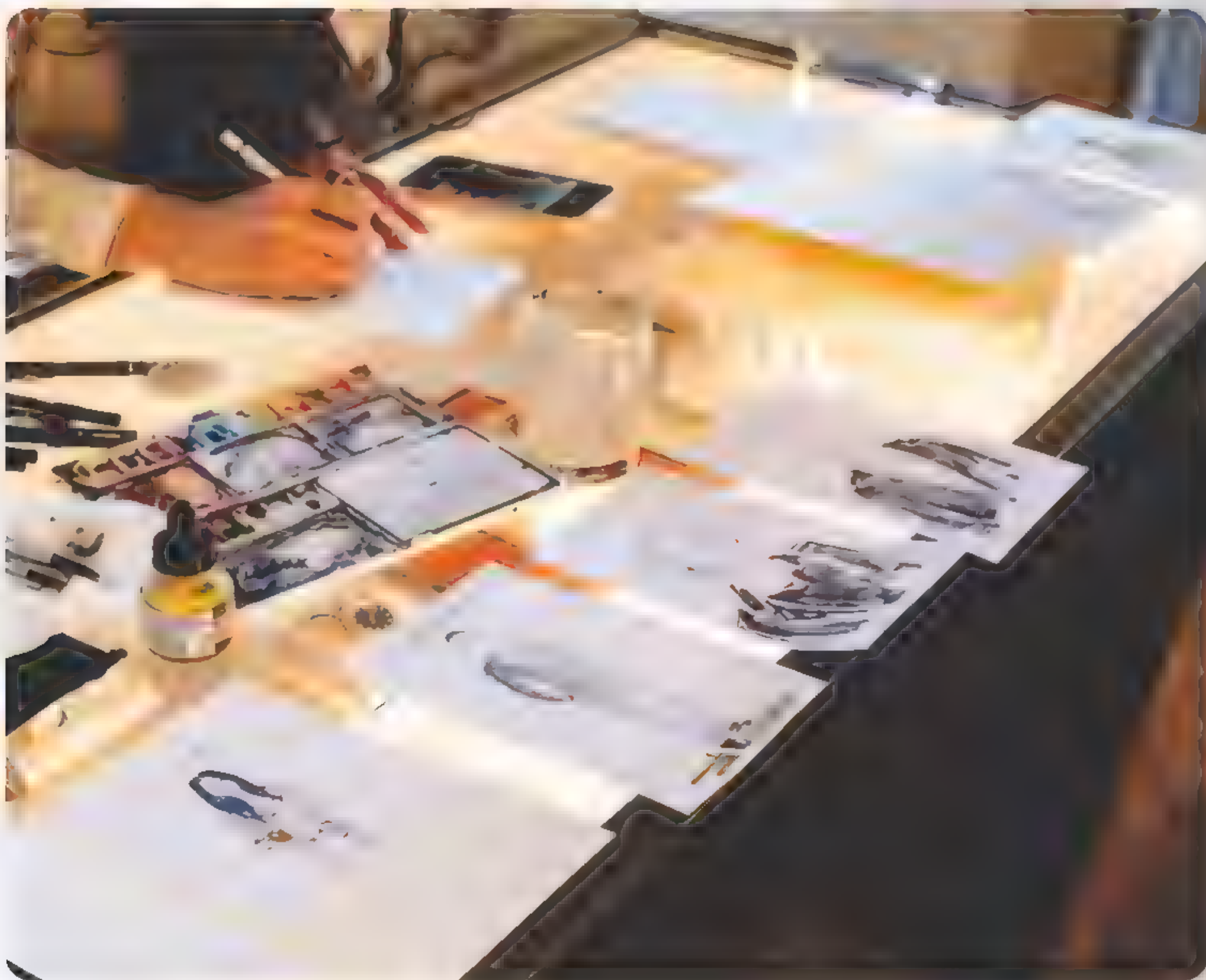


REDCARPET EVENTS

BULGARI

Yellow Gold Icons

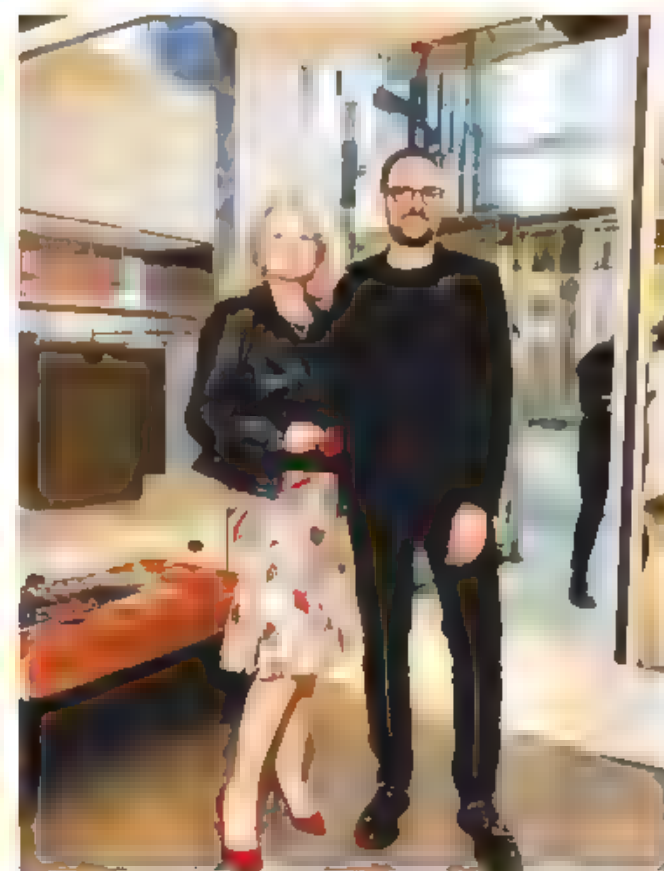
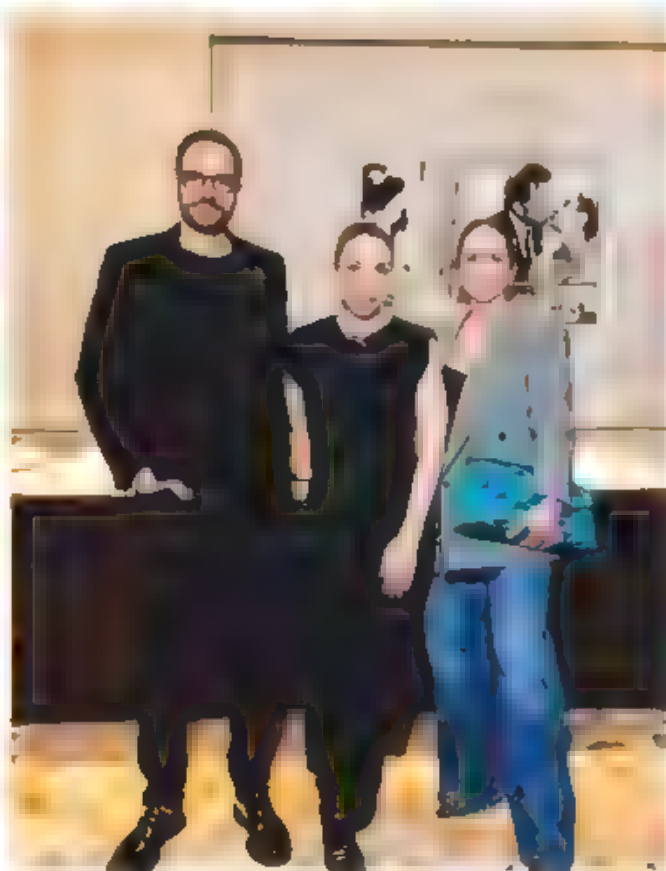
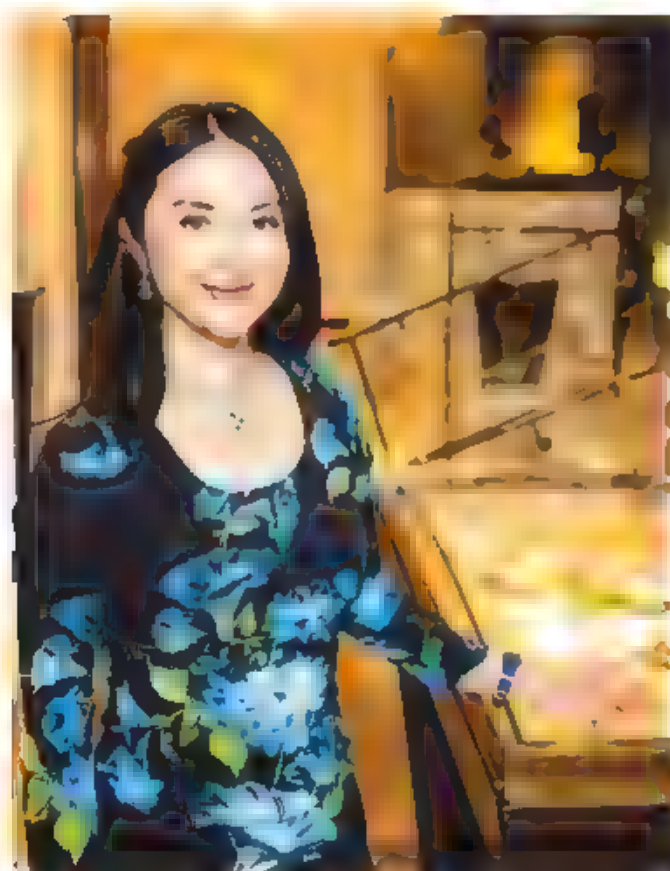
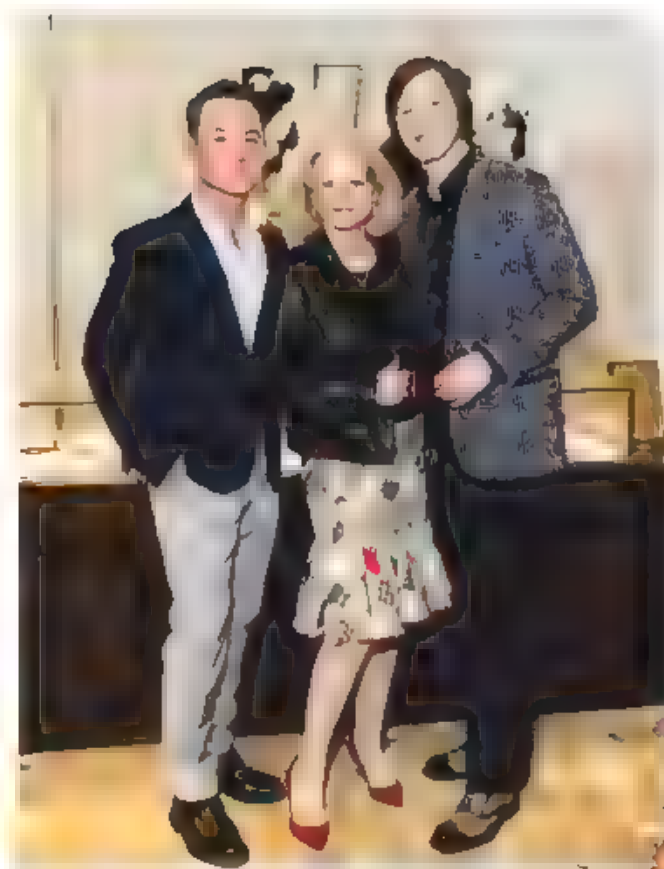
Photos by **Jessica Monroy** of **Drew Altizer Photography**

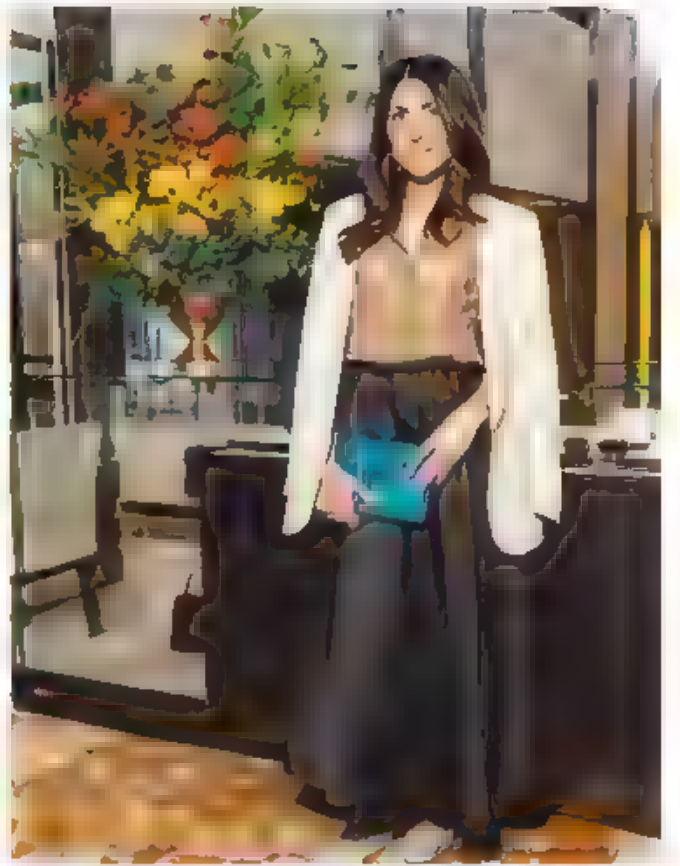


Guests, adhering to the requested dress code of “Golden Hour Cocktail” gathered at the chic San Francisco boutique for the cocktail event celebrating the timeless allure of yellow gold and of course Bulgari’s enduring legacy.

Attendees enjoyed champagne and nibbles at the intimate showcase of iconic yellow gold pieces, each exuding the brand’s hallmark craftsmanship and refined aesthetic. The evening offered a moment of appreciation for the harmonious relationship between Bulgari’s exquisite designs and the timeless charm of yellow gold.







RED CARPET EVENTS

CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY'S Supper Club 2024

Photos by **Natalie Schrik** and **Jessica Monroy** for **Drew Altizer Photography**



THE CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY TRANSPORTED GUESTS BACK TO THE GOLDEN ERA OF SUPPER CLUBS AT ITS SYMPHONY SUPPER CLUB GALA WITH HONORARY CHAIR SHARON SIMPSON, EVENT CO-CHAIRS JULIE BASQUE AND ABBY DYE, AND HOST FOR THE EVENING.

Evening highlights included an announcement about the launch of a new education concert series in the fall of 2024, featuring music by composer **Mason Bates**, who also attended the event. Held at the elegant Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, the event featured a three-course dinner and auction; a performance by international jazz sensation,

multi-instrumentalist, and star of Postmodern Jukebox **Gunhild Carling**, and dancing to the seductive, swinging stylings of the **Gunhild Carling Band**. A total of \$194,000 was raised for the musicians of the California Symphony and music education programs that serve the community.

Notable Attendees

Sharon Simpson – Honorary Event Chair

Donato Cabrera – Artistic and Music Director of the California Symphony

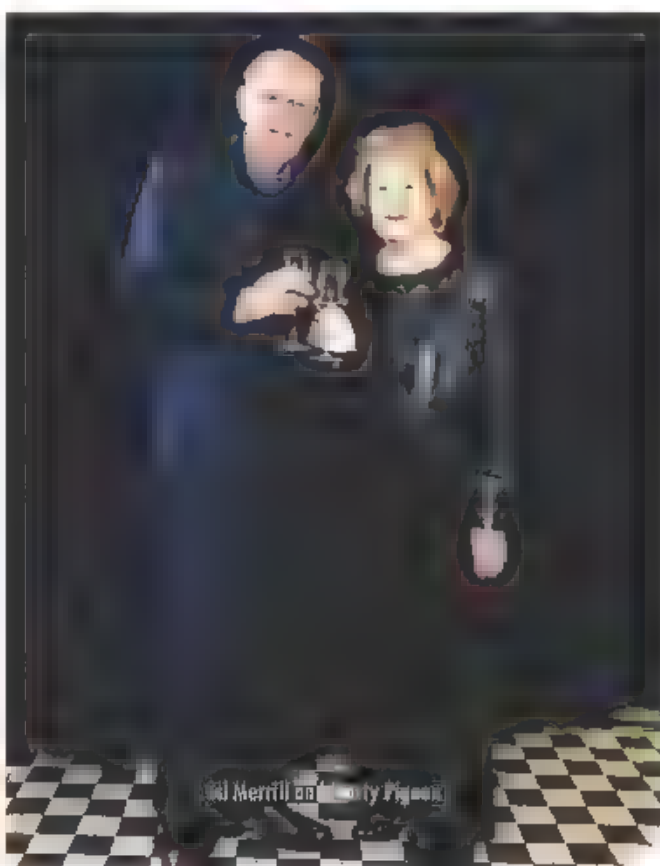
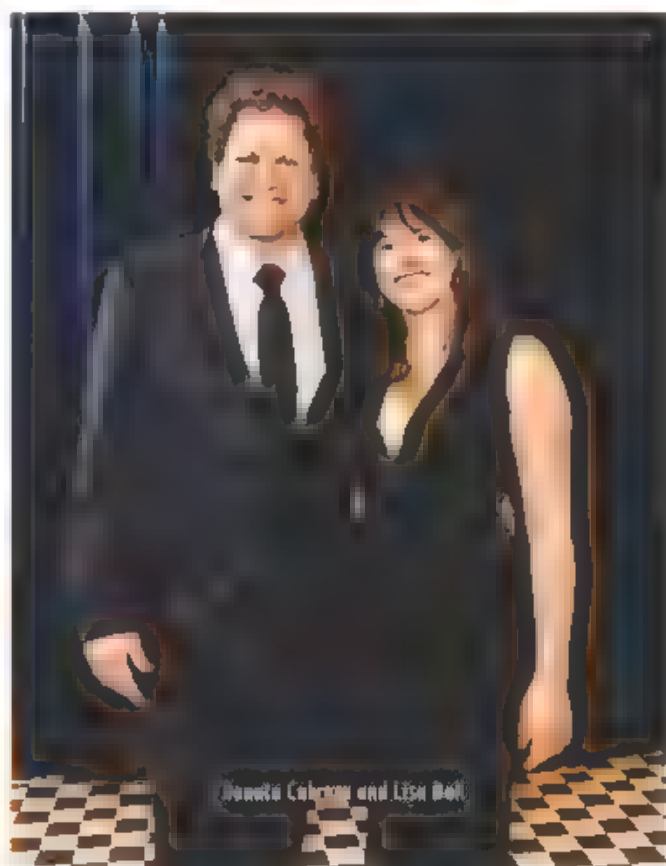
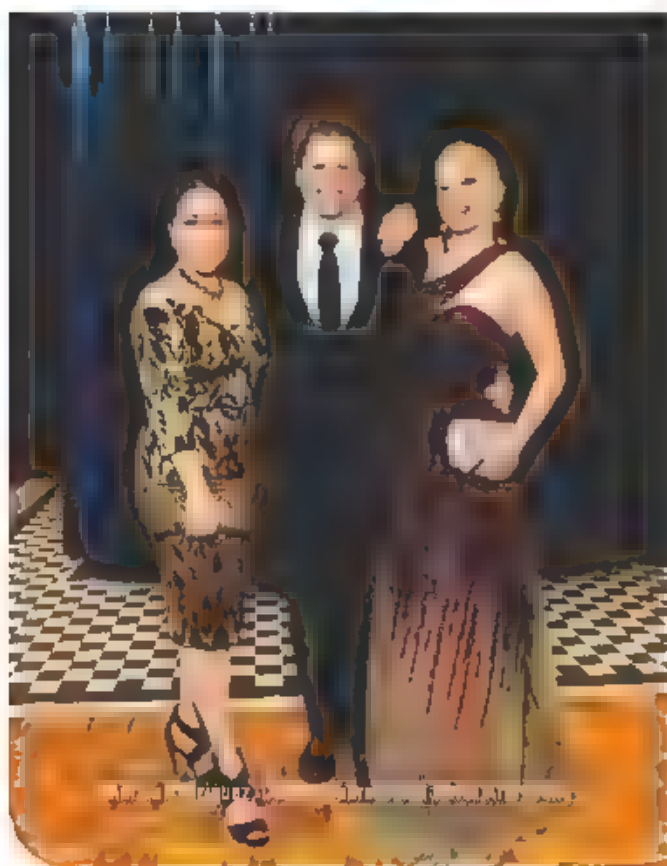
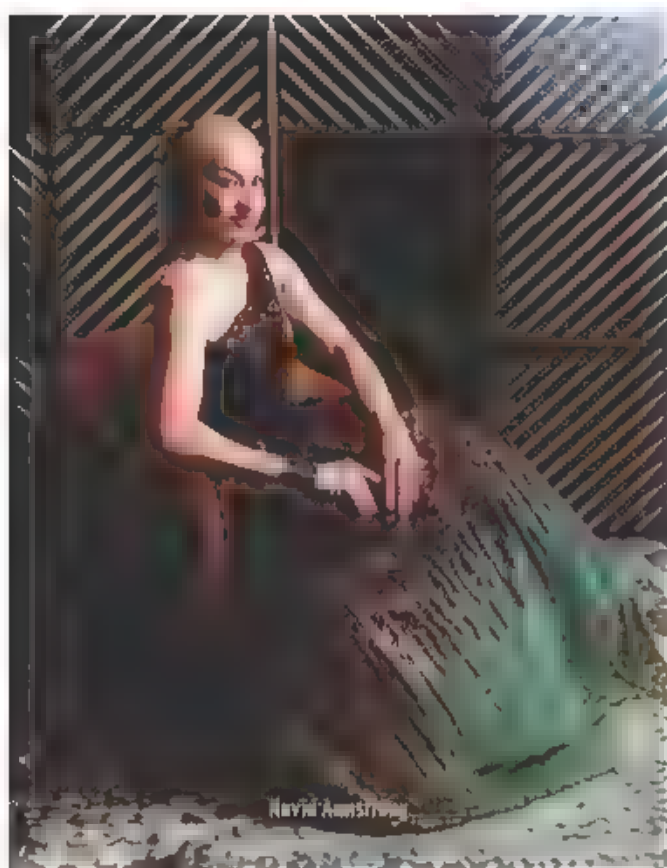
Lisa Dell – Executive Director of the California Symphony

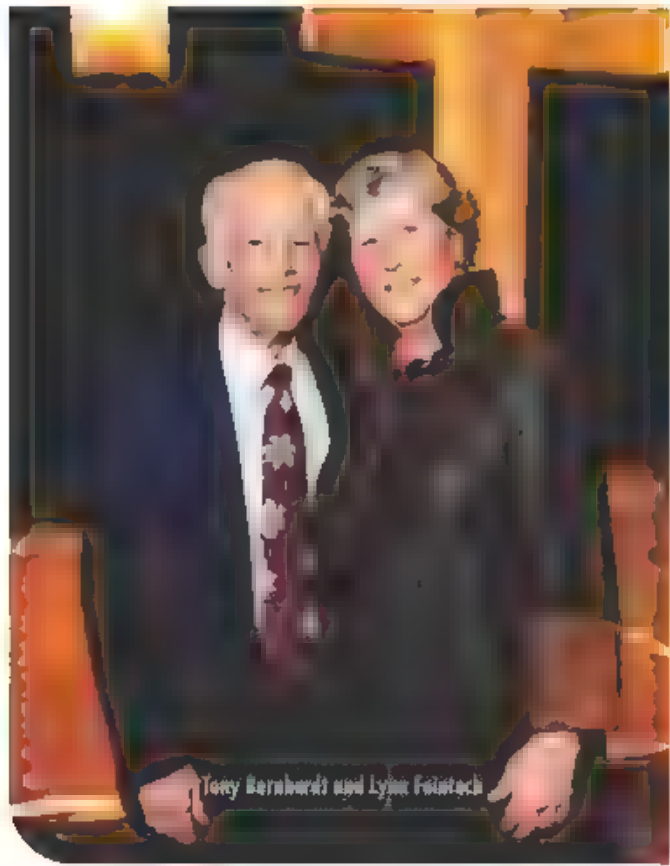
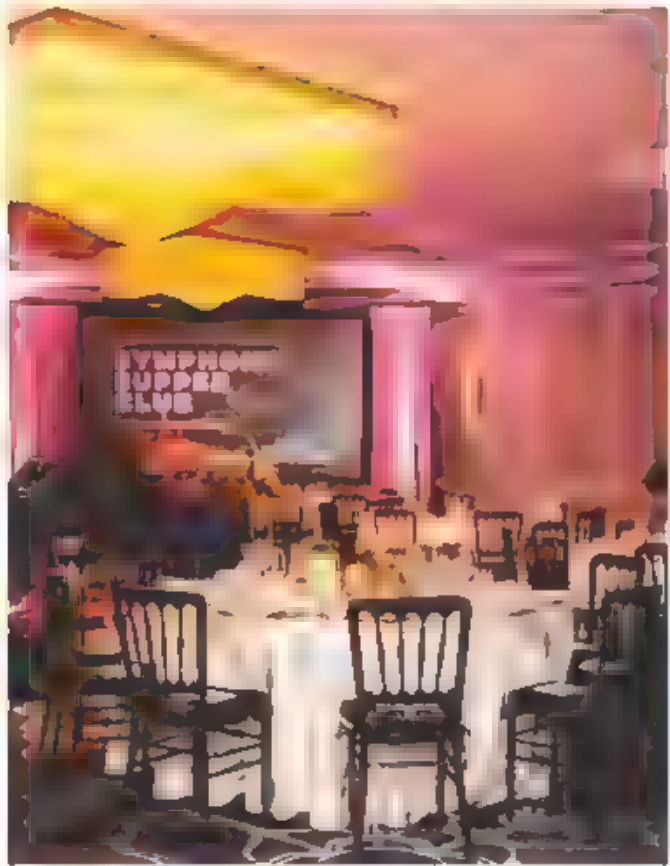
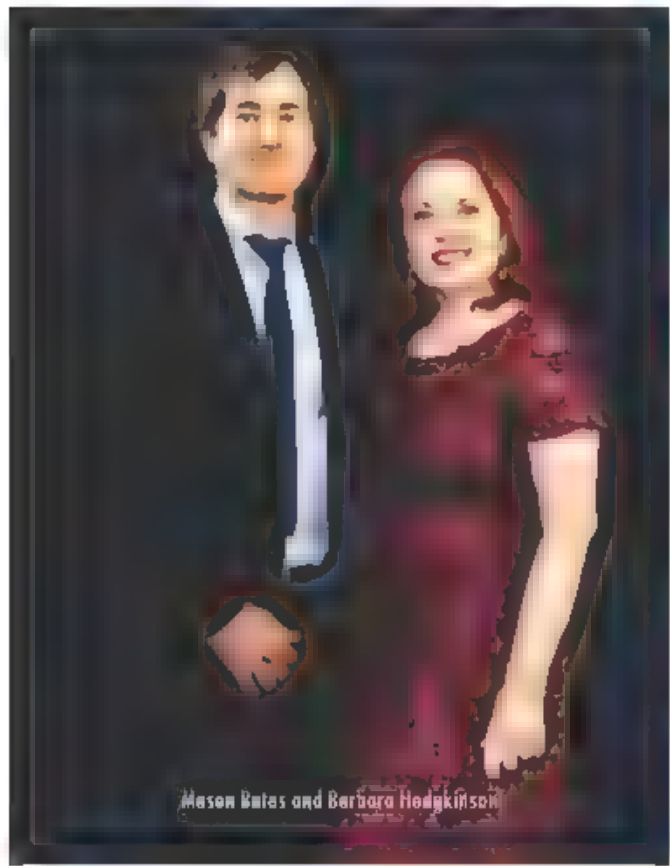
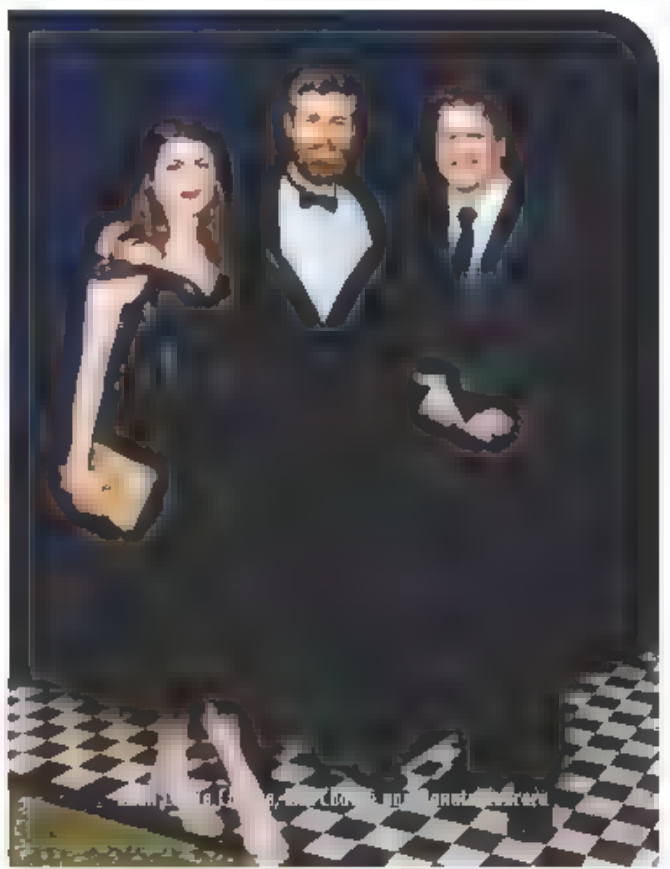
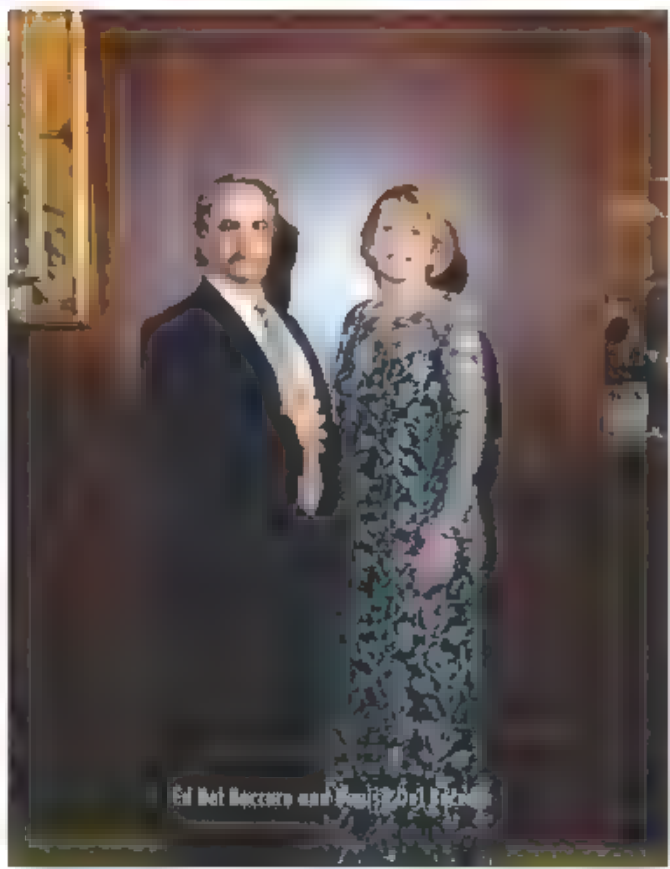
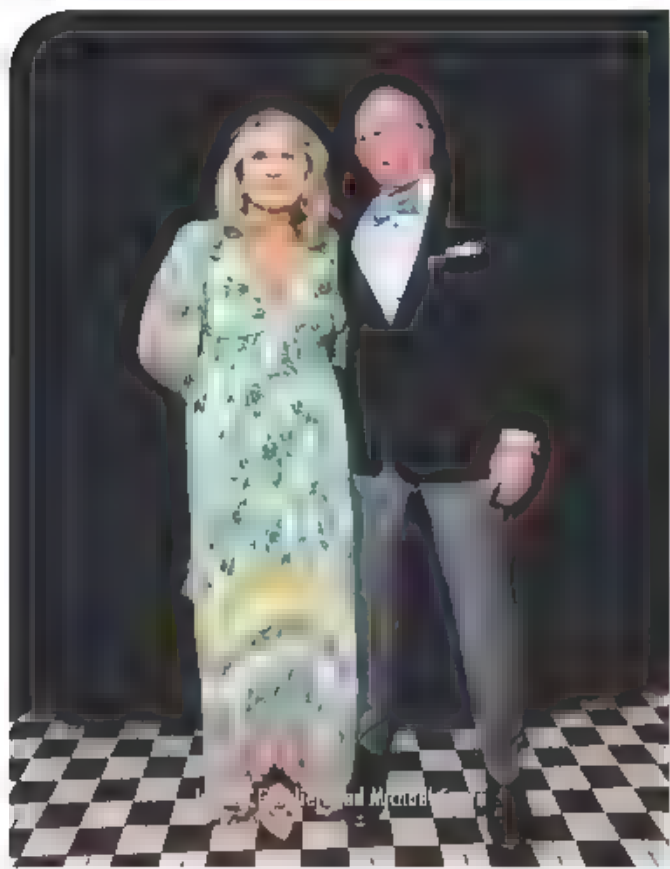
Barbara Hodgkinson – California Symphony Board President

Julie Basque and Abby Dye – Event Co-Chairs

Mason Bates – Composer, Grammy winner, and former California Symphony Young American Composer-in-Residence







ISAIA'S FIRST WOMEN'S CAPSULE COLLECTION LAUNCH

Photos by **Rey del Fierro**

Location: ISAIA, San Francisco

April 25, 2024



Isaia San Francisco celebrated with global CEO Gianluca Isaia and Isaia President James Shay for the launch of the first ever women's capsule collection designed by Damiano Biella.

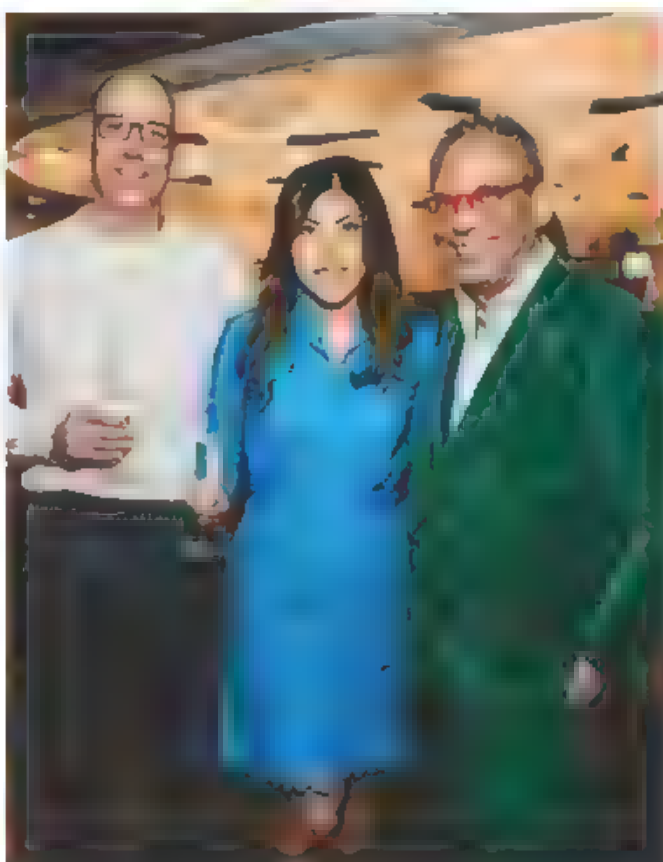
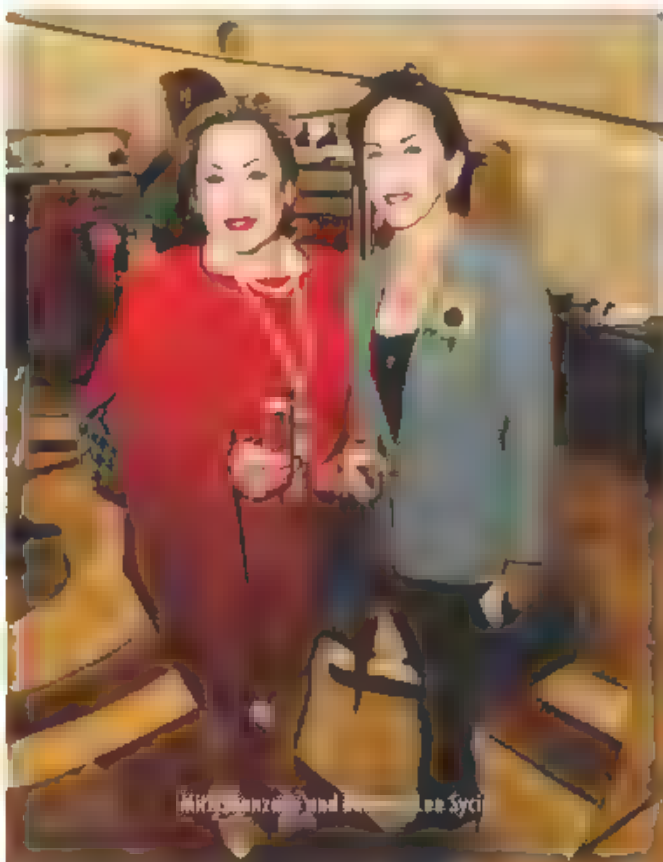
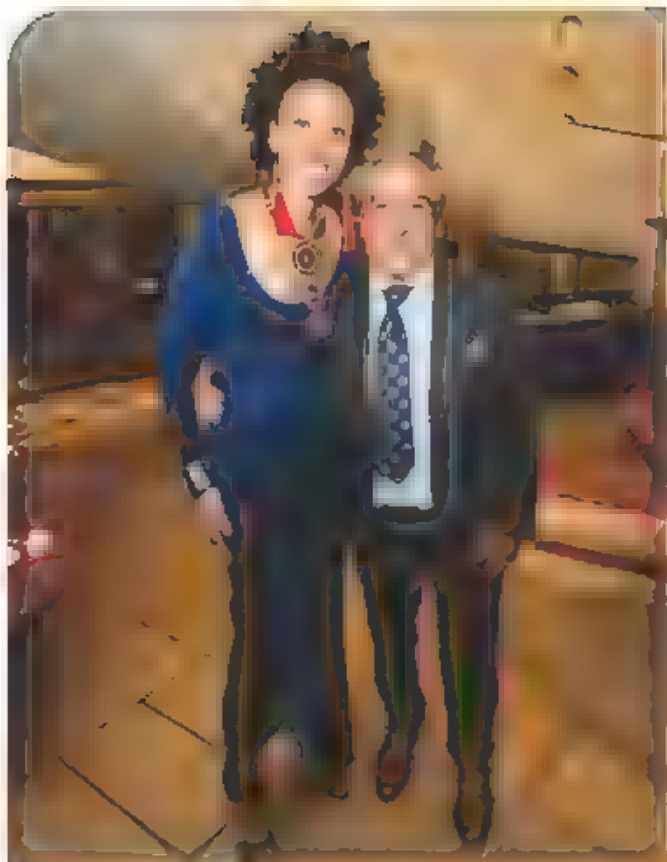
We had the pleasure of hosting Cliff Wong, Jeff Morgan & Angie, as well as David Milstein, Benjamin Ruder & broadcast television reporter Jessica Boyington.

Amongst our VIP clients, San Francisco based stylists Linda Hughes & Lorence Manansala were also in attendance

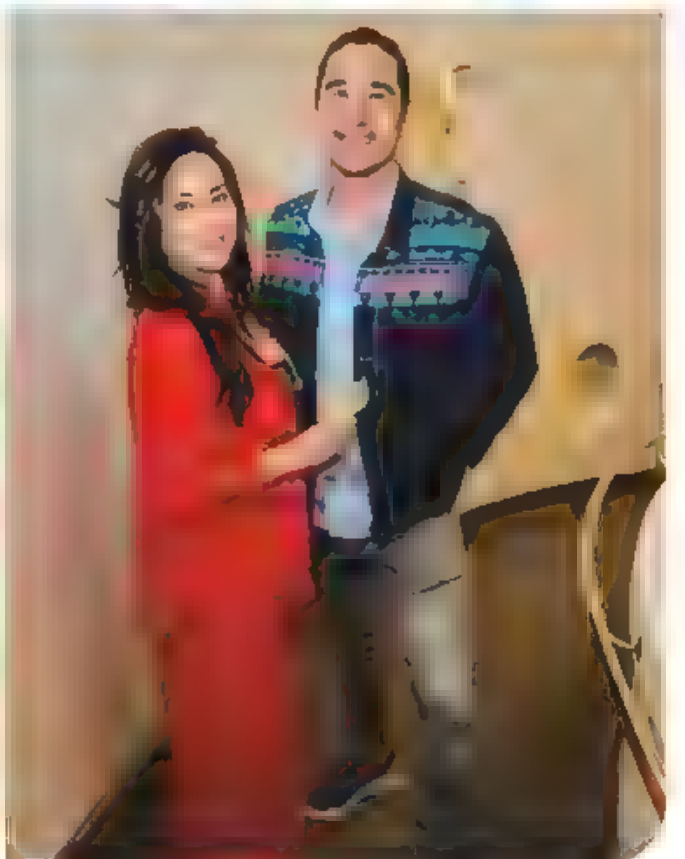
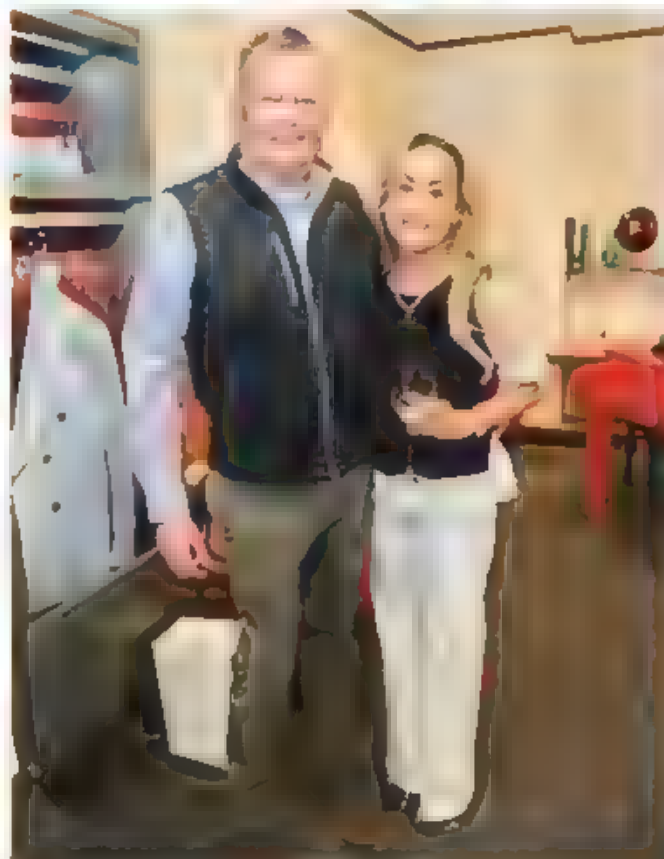
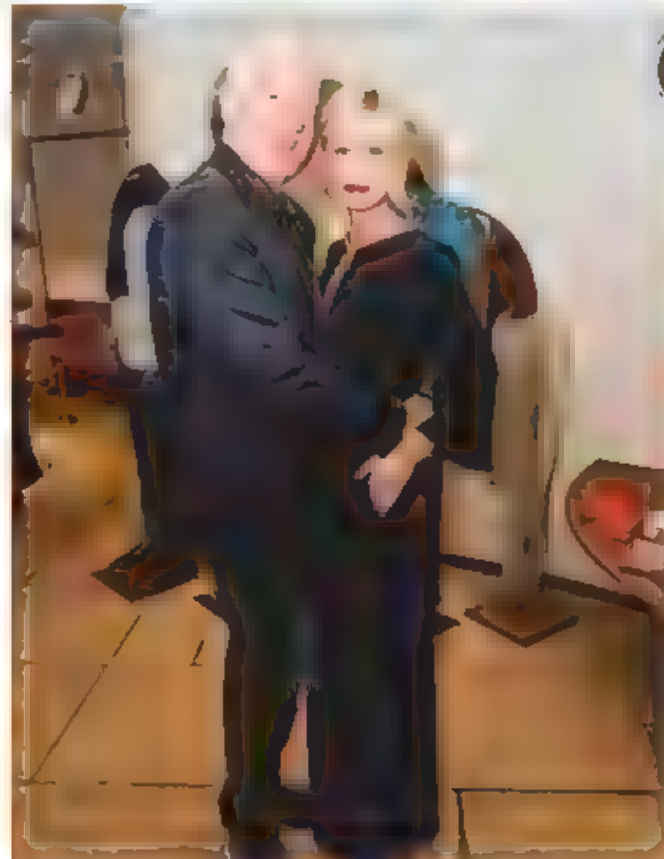
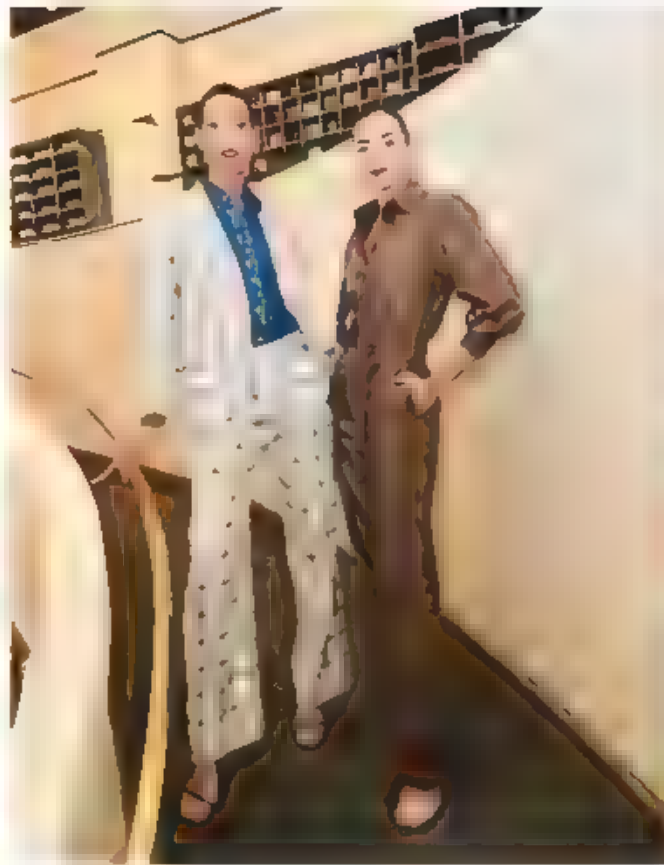
Notable Attendees

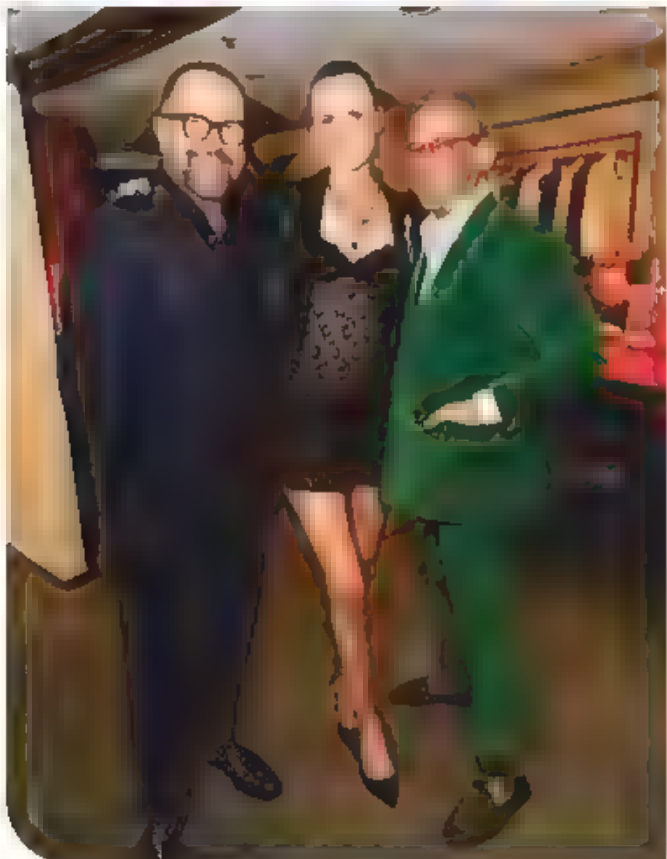
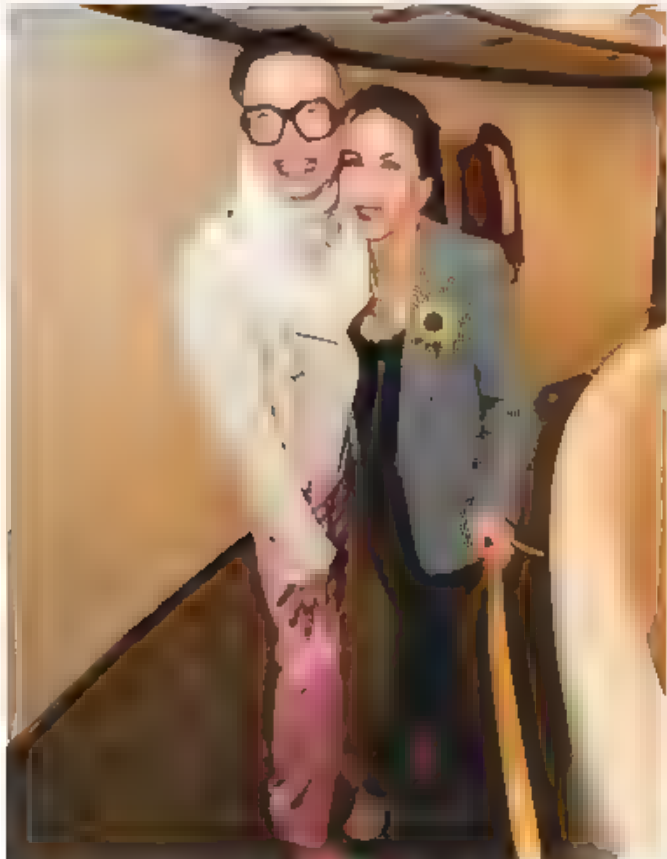
Tarek Hafez Director of Global Client Experience
Cebna Ocheltree Operations Manager
Lola Le-Coeur Hamard Executive Assistant
Franz Gutierrez Head Tailor
Carlos Gonzales Tailor











REDCARPET EVENTS

JAPANESE PRINTS

in Transition Donor Reception

Photos by **Katie Ravas** for **Drew Altizer Photography**



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THOMAS P. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR AND CEO OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO, INVITED SPONSOR LEVEL AND ABOVE MEMBERS, EXHIBITION SUPPORTERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS TO A PRIVATE RECEPTION CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF JAPANESE PRINTS IN TRANSITION: FROM THE FLOATING WORLD TO THE MODERN WORLD.

The exhibition documents the late 19-century shift from delicately colored ukiyo (floating world) woodcut prints of actors, courtesans, and scenic views to brightly colored images of Western architecture, technology, Victorian fashions and customs, and modern military warfare. This two-part exhibition (the floating world and the

modern world) highlights this stylistic transition and the work of one artist, Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, who successfully spanned them both. His distinctive, sometimes eccentric, images serve as a link between the two eras.

Notable Attendees

Yo Osumi, Consul General of Japan

Jimmy Kishimori, Deputy Consul General of Japan

Karin Breuer, Former Curator in Charge of the Achenbach Foundation

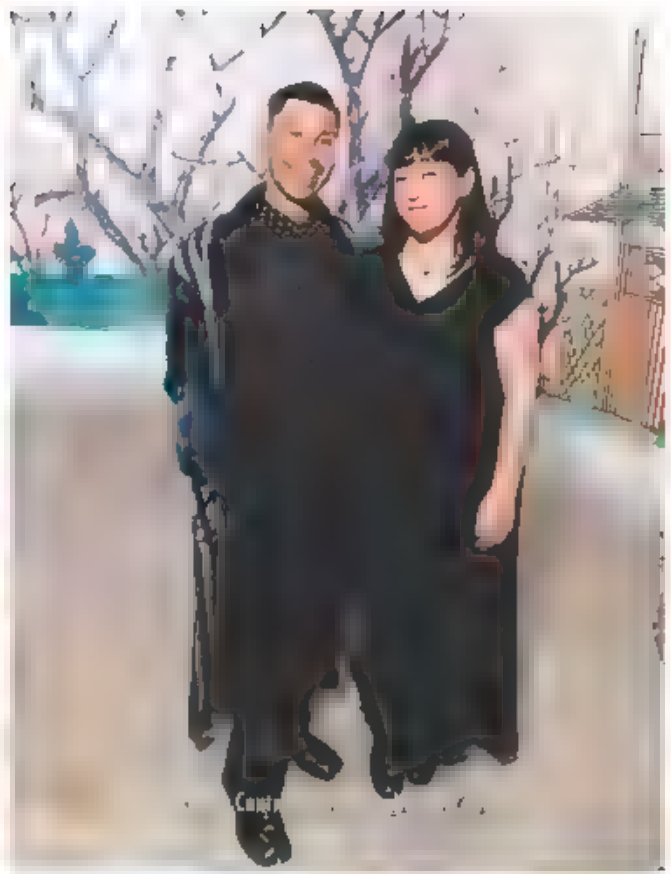
Thomas P. Campbell, Director and CEO of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

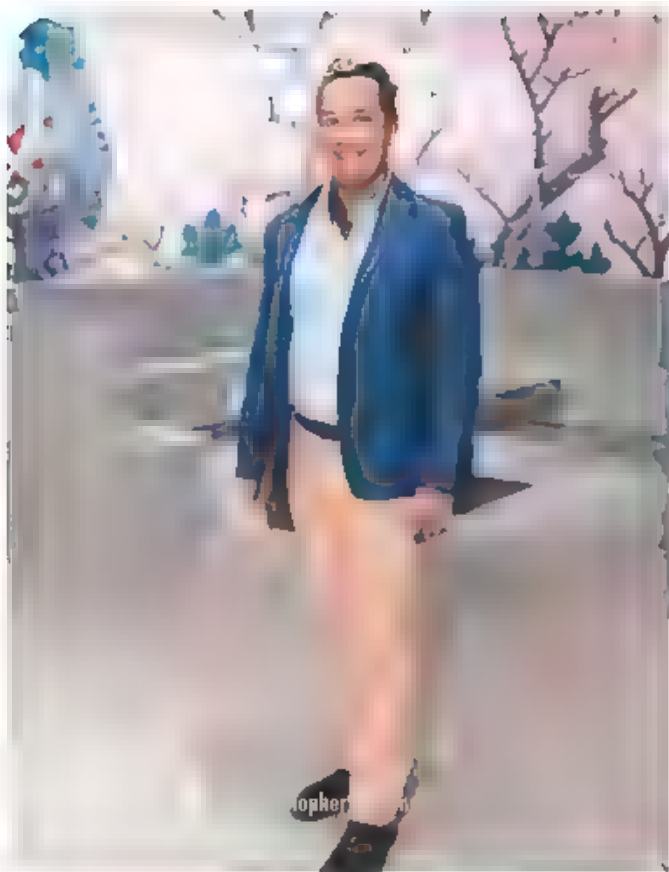
Furio Rinaldi, Current Curator in charge of the Achenbach Foundation at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

Lauren Palmor, Exhibition Curator, and Associate Curator of American Art at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco









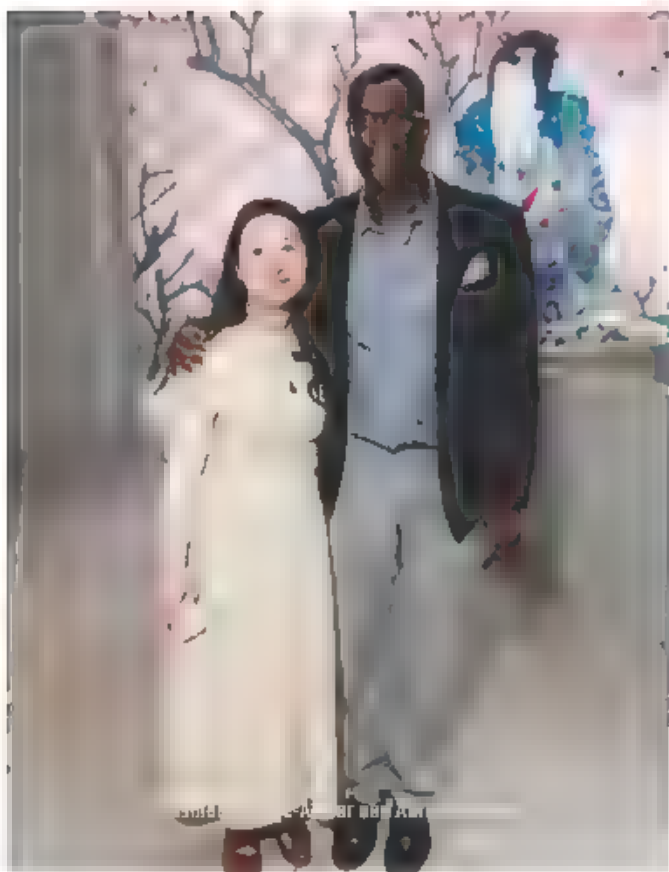
Joseph



Cheng



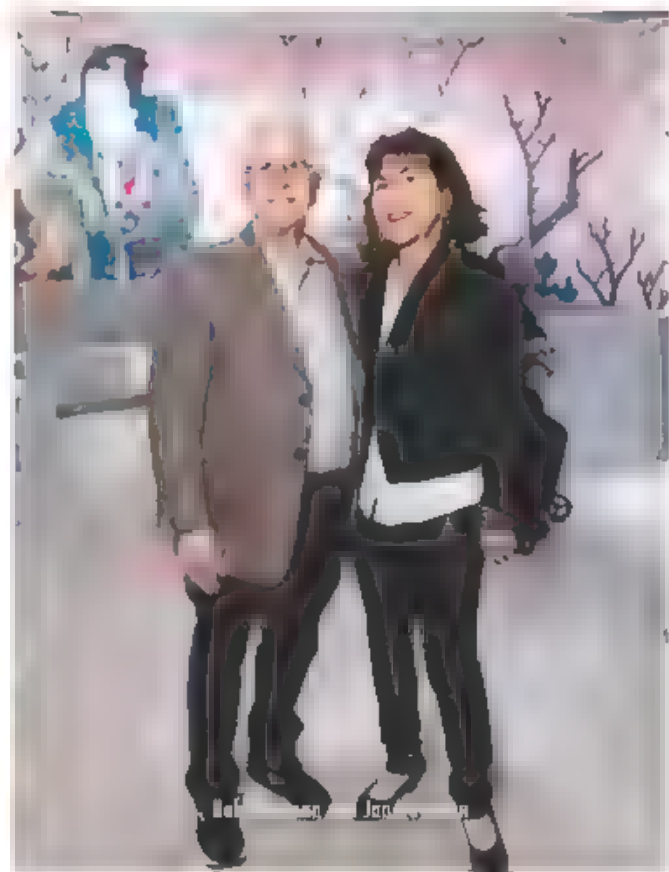
Chun-Chen and Jane Williams



David and Mary Ann



John



Bob and Jan



Wayne and Linda Adams



Jonathan Brown



Debbie and Jane



REDCARPET EVENTS

NEIMAN MARCUS SAN FRANCISCO

Hosts an exclusive conversation with fashion designer Bach Mai and the Asian Art Museum's Assistant Curator Naz Cuguoglu

Photos by Katie Ravas of Drew Altizer Photography

May 15, 2024



Bach Mai, Naz Cuguoglu and Hannah Yokuna

NEIMAN MARCUS IS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, REPRESENTATION, AND THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND FASHION.

On May 15th 2024 Neiman Marcus San Francisco proudly hosted a conversation with acclaimed fashion designer Bach Mai and Naz Cuguoglu Assistant Curator of the Contemporary Art at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Prior to the event Bach Mai had the distinct honor of visiting the Asian Art Museum and viewing it's new exhibit into View New Voices New Stories to draw inspiration from its esteemed collection while underscoring the

symbolic relationship between art and fashion. The conversation dove into the significance of being an Asian American designer in today's fashion landscape and how art serves as a powerful catalyst for inspiration and representation.

The cocktail event and chat featured live models and his current Spring collection coming together for an evening of insightful dialogue and celebration. Neiman Marcus was thrilled to facilitate this meaningful conversation and

celebrate the rich tapestry of voices and stories within the community. This promising event embodied their commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion and they were honored to partner with Bach Mai and Naz Cuguoglu with the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Cheers to San Francisco a city that embraces diversity and innovation with open arms.

Notable Attendees:

Lin Haber VP&M NMSF

Bach Mai Fashion Designer

Naz Cuguoglu Museum Assistant Curator

Lillian Qian

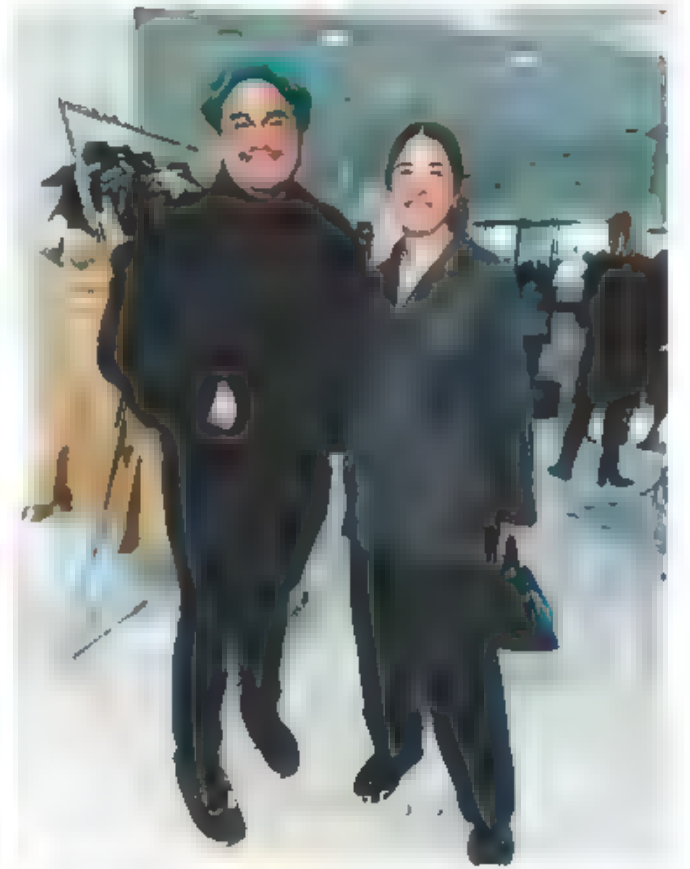
Thao Dodson

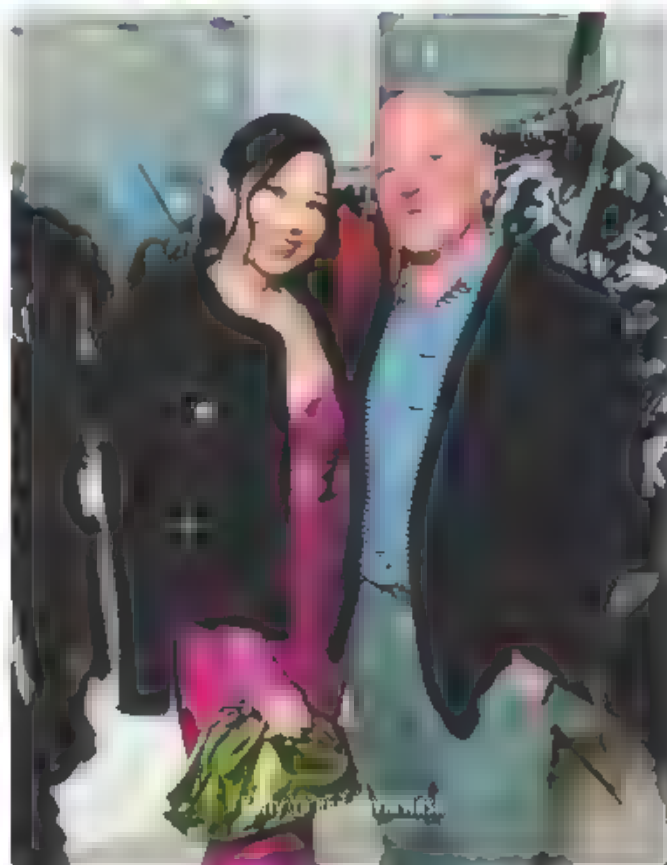
Juliet Bergh

Martha Hernandez

Betty Yu







REDCARPET EVENTS

2024 SAN FRANCISCO Decorator Showcase Patron Preview Gala

Photos by Katie Ravas for Drew Altizer Photography

April 25, 2024



BLISS ESTATE IS LOCATED AT 2898 BROADWAY ON "BILLIONAIRE'S ROW" IN PACIFIC HEIGHTS.

Sponsors and partygoers mingled with the 2024 San Francisco Decorator Showcase designers while sipping fine beverages, savoring delicious hors d'oeuvres, and delighting in four levels of spaces while supporting San Francisco University High School's Financial Aid Program. Guests reveled in the impressive Golden Gate sunset views and enjoyed a sneak preview inside the fully transformed, magnificent Bliss Estate at 2898 Broadway on "Billionaire's Row" in Pacific Heights. Located at the famed Baker Street stairs, 2898 Broadway has been hailed as a beautifully proportioned and exquisitely detailed essay of Dutch Colonial Revival architecture.

Since its inception, the Decorator Showcase has raised over \$18 million for the San Francisco University High School Financial Aid Program. This event allows hundreds of deserving Bay Area students access to a world-class college preparatory education.

Notable Attendees

2024 Decorator Showcase designers, including Suzanne Tucker, Jay Jeffers and others
Matt Levinson, University High School Head of School
Amanda Hoemigman and Jenni Zach, Decorator Showcase Co-Chairs
Shaundra Bason, Director of Strategic Philanthropy, University High School
Stephanie Yee, Decorator Showcase Executive Director
Daniel Lurie, University High School alumnus



Zahra Ahmad and Arwen



Rabin Merwin and Dina Bandman Goldstone



Shundra Bason, Larry Baur and Matt Levinson





Michelle Elberlin and Heather



Indolene Sherrington and Heather



Wendy and Ashley Maje



Christine Weiss and Amy Brown



Michelle



Michelle and Heather



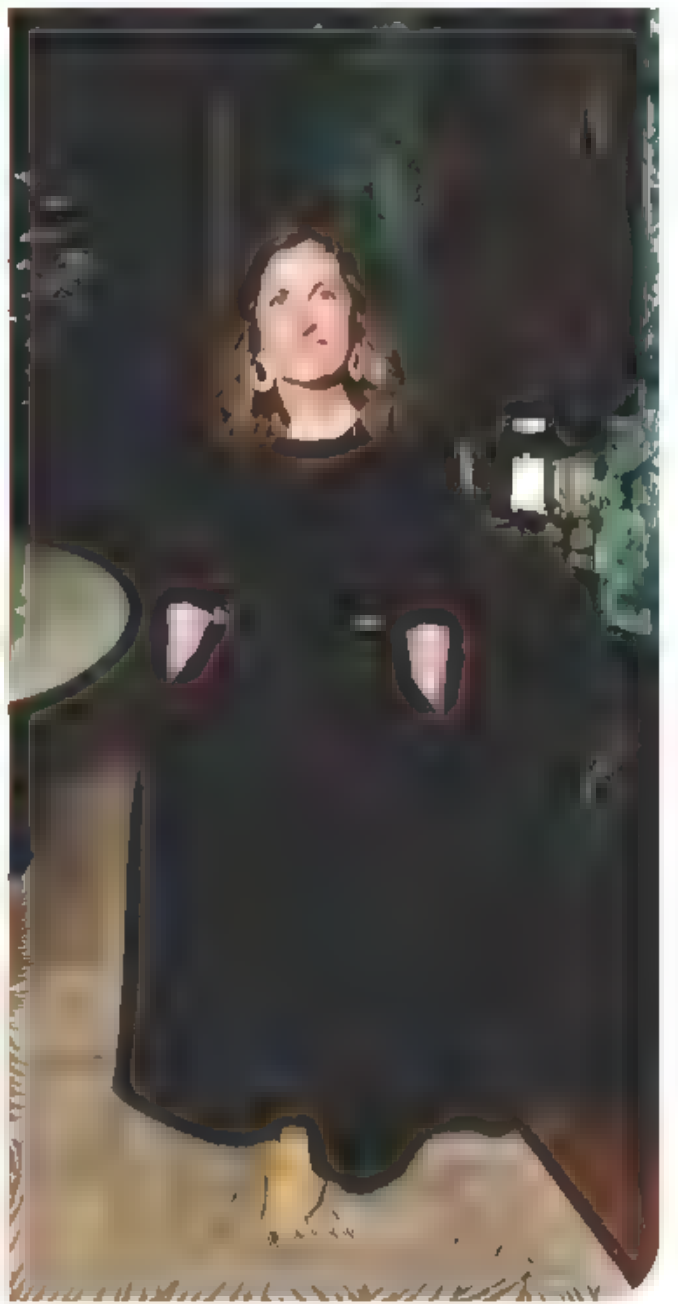
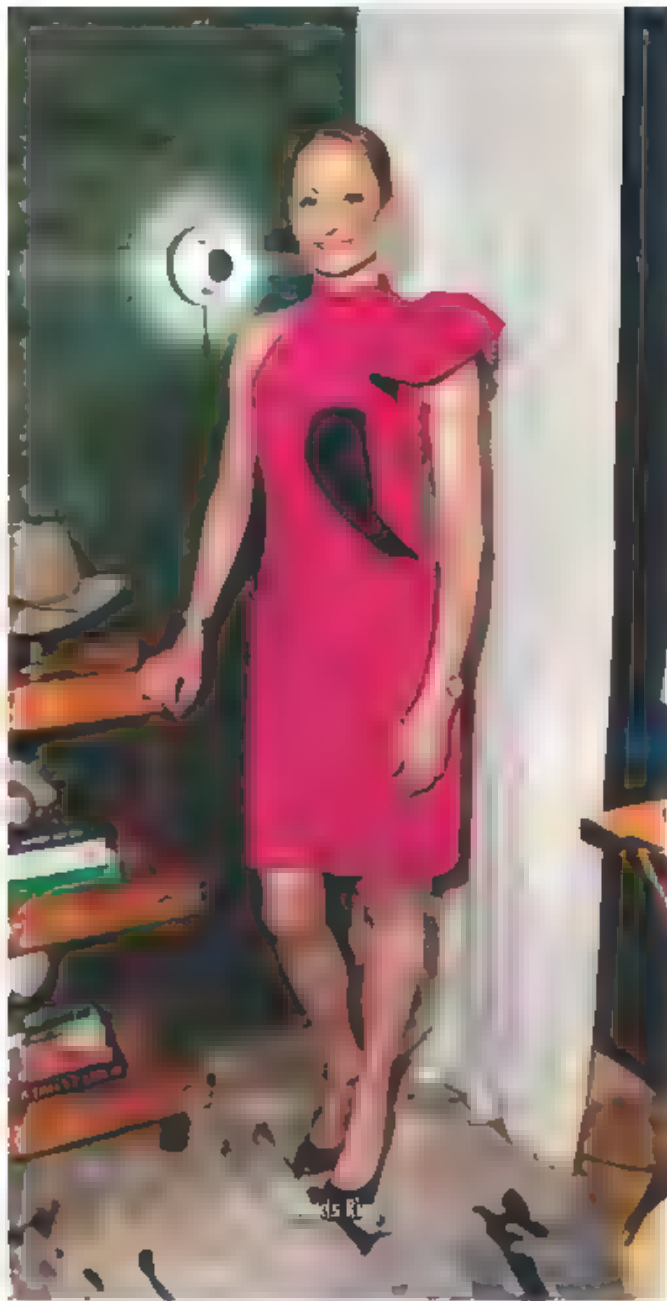
Dee and Heather



Wendy Ahlgren and Suzanne Tucker



Thelma Garza and Lindsay Joast



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Kendall Jenner, Los Angeles

Valigeria
By Anthony Seklaoui, 2024